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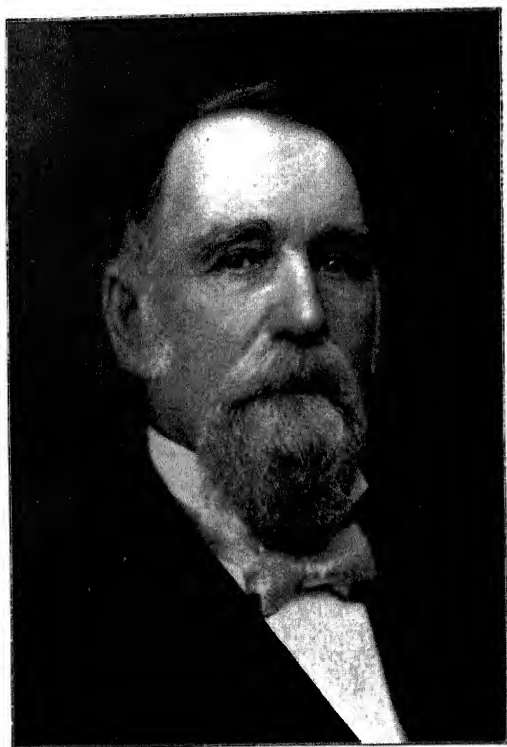
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JOHN SANFORD BRUMBACK

PUBLIC LIBRARY  
VAN WERT COUNTY  
LIBRARY

THE PIONEER COUNTY LIBRARY (THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY  
OF VAN WERT COUNTY, OHIO) AND THE COUNTY  
LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

BY

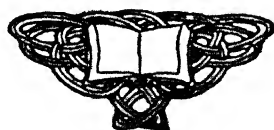
SAIDA BRUMBACK ANTRIM

*Secretary of The Brumback Library Board*

AND

ERNEST IRVING ANTRIM, *Ph. D. (Göttingen)*

WITH 48 ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS AND A MAP



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# INTRODUCTION

DR. P. P. CLAXTON, U. S. COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

THE increase in interest in public libraries the last three decades has been great. Through public taxation and private donations libraries have been established in almost all cities and larger towns in the United States. Many of these are housed in costly buildings. Most of them are served by expert librarians and trained assistants. However, much more than half of the men, women and children of the United States live in the open country and in the smaller towns and cities out of reach of the city libraries. Probably seventy per cent of the entire population of the country have no access to any adequate collection of books or to a public reading room. In only about one-third of the counties of the United States is there a library of 5,000 volumes or more. In only about 100 of these do the village and country people have free use of the libraries. In this as in so many other things the very people who need help most and who would be most benefited by it have been neglected.

In a few instances city libraries have been opened to country and village people. In many small towns and villages small subscription libraries, open a few hours in the week, have a precarious existence. In several states circulating libraries afford some relief. But none of these minister to the country people in a way or to an extent to be compared with the service which the large and well-endowed public libraries render city people.

The taxable property of small towns, villages, townships, and rural districts is not sufficient to enable them to support good public libraries alone. The only help for all is in the county library, supported by taxes levied on all the taxable property of the county, managed by trained librarians and having branches in all the towns, villages, and schools of the

county. Cooperation is as necessary here as it is in other matters of public welfare. That no county, however poor, may be without the means to support such a library there should be state aid for public libraries just as there is for public schools in most states. No community should be deprived through poverty of access to all the books it can make good use of.

What may be done for all the people of a county through a county library and its branches is well illustrated by the Brumback Library of Van Wert and Van Wert County, Ohio—the first library in the United States attempting to serve an entire county in this way. We have here also the best possible illustration of how city and county, private individuals and public may cooperate. The private individual—Mr. John Sanford Brumback, a merchant and banker of the town of Van Wert—and his heirs gave the money for the handsome library building, the city gave the site in its beautiful wooded park, and the upkeep of the library and its branches is provided from taxes levied on the property of the county at large.

Though this library was established less than fifteen years ago, its example has already been followed by about a hundred other counties. Sooner or later it will be followed by all. The following will be more rapid if more citizens of wealth will imitate the example of Mr. Brumback. In practically all the counties of the United States there are one or more citizens who might easily do this, thereby leaving their fellow citizens, their children and their children's children the opportunity and means of culture and to their own memories a perpetual monument.

I have found the account which Dr. and Mrs. Antrim have here given of the founding and work of the Brumback Library interesting, instructive and inspiring. I commend it to those who are interested in finding a way by which all of the people may have access to the best that has been thought and said.

*Washington, D. C.*

*February 16, 1914.*

## PREFACE

SOON after the opening of the Brumback Library of Van Wert County, Ohio, in 1901, the Board of Trustees determined that a memorial should be prepared for publication, in order that the history of the library might be preserved in permanent form for future reference. The Book Committee was accordingly authorized to proceed with the work. As chairman of this committee and as the daughter of the donor of the library, I very naturally became greatly interested in carrying out the instructions of the Board.

Believing that the work should receive the most careful attention I finally decided, with the approval of the Board, to take the matter of editing and publishing the book into my own hands, and thereby make it a purely personal undertaking.

As the years have passed it has become more and more evident that as a *county library* the Brumback Library is attracting much attention, that its operations are being watched with interest, and that the county library idea is coming to occupy a conspicuous place in the educational and cultural life of the nation. From the beginning the library has received requests for information concerning its origin and methods as a county institution. These inquiries have covered a wide range of most pertinent questions, such as the following:

"How long has the Brumback County Library been established?" "How was it founded?" "Who was the founder?" "What is the feeling of the people as to the benefits derived from a county library?" "Give some arguments for a county library." "Give the details of administration." "How many townships and villages in Van Wert County?" "What amount is spent in operating the county branches?" "How many county stations are there?" "Are the county branches patronized by the farmers?" "Do the branch libraries aid the township schools?" "Do you use guarantors' cards?" "What is the circulation of books in the county?" "How

are books transported, by wagon or rail?" "Who attends to the work of distributing and collecting the books sent to the county branches and who pays the official?" "What kind of transportation boxes are used and what is the cost of the same?" "What methods are employed in library service to rural schools?" "Are teachers responsive and do they apply for traveling libraries on their own initiative?" "Is there any difficulty in getting records of circulation from teachers?" "Do you send separate collections to schools?" "What is the nature of the school collections?" "What work is done with the children in the county?" "Is the library maintained solely by taxation?" "How is the tax levied?" "How much annually is raised by taxation?" "What is your budget of expenses?" "What amount is available for books each year?" "Is there a demand for agricultural books?" "What classes of books are read and in demand?" "How many volumes in the library?" "How often are books renewed at Main Library?" etc. etc. Also requests for photographs illustrative of the work, and for reports, blanks, printed matter and maps, have been received.

Requests for this information have at all times met with careful consideration.

As these have become more numerous and indicate a desire for specific knowledge, it seemed desirable that the memorial should be expanded so as to include something of the county work of the Brumback Library. My connection with the Board of Trustees in the capacity of secretary from June 2, 1899, when the first board was organized, to the present time, has enabled me to give the complete statement of the work of the library embodied in Part II.

Furthermore, as a result of the spread of the county library idea a third part is added, which is devoted to the growth and development of the county library movement in the United States. What was begun as a labor of love became an undertaking much greater than was at first anticipated; therefore my husband volunteered to assist me in the work and assumed the responsibility of collecting and arranging all the data for Part III, which he gathered with no little difficulty from a great many sources, including answers to scores of letters addressed to all parts of the Union.

It has been our aim to state the facts in connection with the library as they exist and, whenever possible, to allow the public press to reflect the attitude of the people in their comments on these facts.

The book contains some matter of a local character, which may not especially interest the general reader. But anyone having at heart the welfare of our rural population, comprising 55% of all the people of the United States, will be interested in the comprehensive and statistical history of a library that has from the beginning emphasized its work in the *country*. Moreover, Part III, which represents the first attempt yet made to record the progress of the county library movement in the nation, should be of general interest.

Gratefully acknowledging the assistance of my husband, a collaborator in the writing of this book, and the aid of Miss Anna L. Holding, librarian of the Brumback Library, who prepared the index, I send forth this volume in the hope that it may be a fitting tribute of a daughter to the memory of her father and contribute a little, even though it be very little, to the solution of some of the problems of Rural Life in America.

S. B. A.



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PART I

THE ORIGIN OF THE BRUMBACK  
LIBRARY OF VAN WERT  
COUNTY, OHIO



# The County Library

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## CHAPTER I

### THE DONOR

**J**OHAN SANFORD BRUMBACK was born on a farm in Licking County, Ohio, on the 4th day of March, 1829. His father descended from an old Virginia family of German extraction, the progenitor of which had come to America in early Colonial times. His mother, Frutilda Bearnese, came from Pennsylvania, whence her parents emigrated to Ohio at an early day. From her he inherited many of his sterling qualities of mind and heart.

When he was four years of age his father died, leaving his mother a legacy of six young children and forty acres of undeveloped land having a log house upon it. Since there was nothing with which to rear and educate her four girls and two boys except what could be produced from the soil of this wild land, his mother, like others of that day, no whit discouraged, set bravely to work to eke out a precarious livelihood. In a few years she was called upon to mourn the death of her eldest son, and no other course remained but for her and the four daughters to make their own living, aided by young John's efforts. Because she was unable to spare her only boy from his work, except in the winter season, John's early education consisted of the crude instruction received in a country school, during the few winters he was privileged to attend school at all. He was quick to learn, however, and acquired even in this

short time the rudiments of an education that, added to and rounded out by a lifetime of close observation and keen perception, made him a man of general information and broad intelligence.

Trained from childhood to battle with the world, to depend upon himself and to labor for those whom he loved, he became one of the capable, self-reliant and generous men who win the affection of those who know them and make the world better for their having lived. In telling of his capability and self-reliance, even in early life, his mother used to say that she trusted him, at the early age of ten, to take to market the farm produce that the family had to sell, which he disposed of with rare judgment for one of his years. He was as good a horse-trader at fifteen as David Harum himself. His mother often said she never knew what horse John would bring home. He many times laughingly related that he never got beaten in a horse trade but once, and that was when he traded a horse for a cow — and the cow died.

His commercial instinct having been thus early aroused, he left the farm and opened a general store at the age of seventeen. The only capital he had was fifty dollars that his mother had saved, which she willingly entrusted to him. With this he went to Cincinnati, where he so won the confidence of wholesale dealers by his frank and manly bearing that they sold him on credit enough goods to open a country store at Ashley, Delaware County, Ohio. This small beginning was the basis of his after success and fortune.

At Ashley, on May 26, 1852, he married Ellen Perlina Purmort, who was born August 10, 1832, at Jay, New York, and who was an unfailing inspiration and helpmate to her husband until his death. When eight years old she went with her parents to Kempville, Canada, where they lived until she was fifteen. In the summer of 1847, they

moved to Berlin, Delaware County, Ohio. Here she taught a term or two of school and became noted as the little teacher who could manage the rude, rough boys. Upon the death of her mother, in 1850, the care and responsibility of the large family fell upon her young shoulders, which burden she willingly and successfully assumed. As the oldest of the large family of children, she had shared all the trials and sorrows of her parents in many losses and removals, yet she kept a happy heart and she was her father's helper in those sad years. The loving and sacrificing nature of both Mr. and Mrs. Brumback was well shown when, upon her father's death shortly after her marriage, they took into their own home her five young brothers and sisters. Two of these they reared as their own children to lives of usefulness. What this meant in the early days can hardly be appreciated in these days of labor-saving appliances and small families. They were a happy pair, and the world helped them because they helped themselves by living sober, prudent and industrious lives.

Shortly after their marriage, owing to the impaired health of Mr. Brumback, they moved to a farm on the Old State Road north of Worthington, Ohio, where they lived for two years. In 1858 they went to Casey, Clark County, Illinois, in which village Mr. Brumback engaged in the mercantile business with such success that when in the spring of 1862 he came with his family to Van Wert, Ohio, he brought with him \$5,000 in gold. Van Wert County was then a comparatively new and thinly settled county having a population of only 10,238. Here he entered the dry-goods business, and also became interested in the stave business, a leading industry in Van Wert County and northwestern Ohio generally, at that time, because of the thousands of acres of finest hardwood timber that covered all of this territory. In 1884 he disposed of his dry-goods



business and purchased a controlling interest in the Van Wert National Bank, of which he became president. As a banker, he was careful, conservative, but withal progressive. During his thirty-five years' residence in Van Wert he helped create and finance many enterprises of great value to the people, notably the Cincinnati, Jackson and Mackinaw Railroad (now the Cincinnati Northern, a part of the New York Central System), in which he became interested when its failure was imminent; The Central Manufacturers Mutual Insurance Company, of Van Wert, Ohio, of which he was president to the time of his death; The Farmers Bank, of Rockford, Ohio; The Union Savings Bank, of Toledo, Ohio, and The Monroe Street Railway, of Toledo, which he started on the road to prosperity at a time when its future was uncertain.

Mr. Brumback was a liberal supporter of the First Methodist Church, of Van Wert, having acted for a number of years as one of its trustees, and he was a charter member of the Odd Fellows lodge in Van Wert, in whose good work he was an active participant.

In later years his generous heart prompted him to build a public library for his home town and county. This was before Mr. Carnegie began his extensive library giving and the idea then of donating a public library was not so common as now. After consulting the members of his family and receiving encouragement from them, he ordered plans prepared for a building to be located in a park in Van Wert City; but when the plans were about perfected he was taken seriously ill. Upon finding that he would not be able, owing to his fatal illness, to carry out his ideas, he called his son Orville, a lawyer in Toledo, to his home in Van Wert, and there, after fully discussing the project with his family, he had a will drawn providing for the erection of the library by his heirs. His will contained a clause to the effect that any of the heirs could defeat the

project if unwilling to join in the expense. However, not only were all willing to carry out the wishes of their father, but they constructed an even better building than he had planned. Another feature of the will is the unique idea, undoubtedly original with Mr. Brumback, *of having the library owned and maintained by the county and its benefits extended to the whole county*, that the country people as well as the town people might enjoy library privileges.

[In order to avoid repetitions the following press comments are not given in full.]

GONE FOREVER — ONE OF THE MOST CONSPICUOUS FIGURES IN VAN WERT'S BUSINESS AFFAIRS PASSES AWAY — J. S. BRUMBACK DIES AFTER A LINGERING ILLNESS — FOR YEARS A FOREMOST LEADER IN ALL PUBLIC MATTERS

One of Van Wert's most useful citizens is dead. One of our best-known men has crossed the silent river. John Sanford Brumback died at his home, on North Jefferson Street, this morning.

As a business man, he developed exceptional mental force. Always careful, prudent, prompt and far-seeing, he managed his affairs with consummate ease, gradually working his way from a poor boy to one of the foremost business men of Ohio, honored for his correct methods and consulted for his mature judgment.

He has been identified with the leading business enterprises of the town from the time he located here until his death. In all his ventures, he was never connected with a failure.

His tastes were domestic. He loved most the company of his own family and relatives. Endowed with a genial disposition, he was easily approached by all. He was proud of the distinction of being a true American and boasted of his American citizenship. Without early advantages, unassisted by anyone, he achieved his position by his force of character and strength of intellect. Had his fortune been cast in some great city, where transactions are larger than here, his business success would have won him even greater wealth, and a wider distinction among his fellowmen.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, Dec. 11, 1897.

DEATH OF J. S. BRUMBACK — FATHER OF HON. O. S. BRUMBACK  
EXPIRES AT VAN WERT — HAD BUSINESS INTERESTS AND  
FRIENDS IN TOLEDO — WAS ONE OF VAN WERT'S MOST  
INFLUENTIAL CITIZENS

Hon. O. S. Brumback received a message from Van Wert Saturday announcing the death of his father, John Sanford Brumback, at that place. Mr. Brumback was one of Van Wert's most influential and public-spirited men. He had been a poor boy, but by dint of hard work and careful management he became one of the prominent business men of the state.— *Toledo Blade*, Dec. 13, 1897.

HON. J. S. BRUMBACK, ONE OF VAN WERT'S LEADING BUSINESS  
MEN, PASSES TO THE GREAT BEYOND

Many friends received with sorrow the news of the death of John Sanford Brumback. He had a wide circle of acquaintances and was highly esteemed as a neighbor and citizen for his charitable disposition, industry, kindness and moral integrity.— *Van Wert Republican*, Dec. 16, 1897.

THE SILENT REAPER CUTS OFF THE EVENTFUL LIFE OF J. S.  
BRUMBACK — BY HIS DEATH VAN WERT LOSES ITS FORE-  
MOST CITIZEN — THOUGH LONG A SUFFERER, YET THE  
FINAL SUMMONS CAME UNEXPECTEDLY

Van Wert's most prominent citizen passed from this scene of action last Saturday morning. It was then that John Sanford Brumback gave up this life for eternity. Like a knell the announcement of his death fell on attentive ears and called forth expressions of deep sorrow on every hand. As the word went from lip to lip the invariable response was, "We have lost a valuable citizen and a useful man."

Mr. Brumback, as all are aware, had been an acute sufferer with kidney trouble for more than a year past. He tried every known remedy and also many medical experts, was given all the attention that ample means could command, but the seed of certain death seemed firmly imbedded in his malady. Last summer he took treatment at the Alma, Michigan, sanitarium, which only served to prolong his life a few months. Few persons can realize the terrible suffering he had to endure. It took pain of the most excruciating and unrelenting character

to gain the mastery over a man possessing his ambitious mind and strong physical constitution. It was in October that he returned to his home, as he said, "to take his chances and await with fortitude the final result." He was known to be growing weaker from day to day, but no member of his household thought death lurked so near; although the attending physician, Dr. McGavren, had informed them that the end might come very suddenly and without warning. So it did. On Saturday morning he dressed and ate breakfast with his family. About half-past nine o'clock he went to an adjoining room, attended by his nurse. At a moment when refusing the help of the nurse he leaned over on his side, and before the alarm could reach the family his spirit had taken its flight to the other world. The sorrowing wife and grief-stricken sons and daughters were quickly gathered about the form of a devoted husband and loving, indulgent father. Friends and neighbors soon began to call to offer their sincere sympathy.

His life is linked with the growth and history of this town and county. His many successful business enterprises denoted his keen judgment, prudent management and steadfast perseverance.

Starting out in life a poor boy, with only a limited education, Mr. Brumback accumulated a good-sized fortune and won an eminent place among his fellowmen. He was a man of practical mind, a genuine public-spirited citizen, full of loyalty to the state, true to his family, and faithful at all times to his friends. His memory is enshrined in the hearts of all who knew him best. The bereaved family have the blessed heritage of a good name and the comforting assurance of a life well spent.

Those left to mourn are the widow, two sons, O. S. Brumback, of Toledo, and D. L. Brumback, and two daughters, Mrs. J. P. Reed, Jr., and Miss Saida Brumback [Mrs. E. I. Antrim], of Van Wert.

Brief but impressive funeral services were held at the home on North Jefferson Street, Tuesday afternoon. A quartette composed of Rev. J. A. Gordon, Eugene Humphreys, Miss Alice Clark and Miss Harriet Hall sang "The Home of the Soul" and "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand," which were the favorite hymns of the deceased during his lifetime. Rev. A. J. Fish, D. D., read with much feeling the 15th Chapter of

I Corinthians, and at its conclusion offered up a prayer sublimely beautiful and eloquent. Rev. J. H. Fitzwater, D. D., read a memorial, and was followed by the Rev. J. F. Mounts, who with tender voice told of his acquaintance with Mr. Brumback for the past thirty-five years. The casket was laden with flowers, and as it was borne to the hearse bowed heads and tearful eyes betokened the grief of wounded hearts.

With the journey to Woodland cemetery and the barring of the doors of the Brumback mausoleum, the earthly career of J. S. Brumback was closed forever.—*Van Wert Times*, Dec. 17, 1897.

## CHAPTER II

### THE BEQUEST FOR A COUNTY LIBRARY \*

**I**N 1891 Mrs. Georgia C. Glenn and Mrs. Fannie Strandler solicited aid for a "Reading-Room" for the city of Van Wert. Some days later, at the home of the latter, these two ladies, with ten others, organized a reading-room association, each agreeing to pay three dollars annually for its support. Mrs. George H. Marsh donated the first fifty dollars. Moreover, the income from entertainments, lectures, socials, etc., increased the fund materially.

On July 28, 1893, the association was incorporated under the laws of Ohio, under the name "The Van Wert Library Association." The following were the original members of the organization: Georgia C. Glenn, Lucy A. Craig, Mary P. Leeson, Isabella L. Rose, L. Elizabeth Malick, Clara V. Halfhill, Frances O. Clark, Eudorah H. Troup, Anna W. Clark, Hattie L. Brotherton, Fannie H. Strandler, Mary J. Hiestand.

On July 25, 1894, they decided to open a public circulating library, although they had only \$600 in the treasury. This fund, however, was increased by the sale of annual tickets at one dollar and a half each, and donations of books, furniture and other things needful for the fitting out of a reading-room were generously made by the people. A pleasant room in the Kime block was secured and the library, containing 600 volumes, was opened to the public September 14, 1894, with Mrs. Clara Halfhill [Cavette] in charge as librarian.

The ladies continued to work and received a great deal of encouragement. Better still, contributions came from many sources. Among others, Mr. J. S. Brumback manifested much interest in this library, buying tickets for distribution and giving liberally to its support. He remarked to one of the

\* In the remainder of Part I the public press is for the most part allowed to tell the story. This is done for the purpose of showing public sentiment relative to the county library idea. While much is given because of its local interest, the part as a whole might also prove attractive to the general reader. To avoid repetitions many omissions have been made from the articles, which are given chronologically.

charter members: "I have always had an eye on your library and have watched its management and success with great interest."

On September 15, 1896, it was made a free city library by virtue of a tax levy of three-tenths of a mill for its support. This yielded \$559 a year, which with careful management paid only the expenses of the reading-room. Money had to be raised by the ladies in other ways for the purchase of books, which now numbered 1,400.

It was the object and ambition of the association to form a nucleus for a permanent library, and they therefore received with joy the announcement of the generous gift to the county by the heirs of the late J. S. Brumback and expressed their willingness to do their part in securing for the county so acceptable a donation.—*Van Wert Bulletin*.

1897

GENEROUS DONATION TO THE TOWN OF VAN WERT BY THE LATE J. S. BRUMBACK — ONE OF THE HANDSOMEST, MOST SUBSTANTIAL LIBRARY BUILDINGS IN THE STATE OF OHIO — TO BE LOCATED IN SECOND WARD PARK, FRONTING MAIN STREET — TO BE OF STONE, FULLY COMPLETED, FURNISHED AND EQUIPPED, READY FOR OCCUPANCY — MR. BRUMBACK'S PROPOSITION — THE TERMS ON WHICH THE BUILDING IS TO BE DONATED, FULL TEXT OF THE WILL, ETC.

Every resident of Van Wert town and county will read with pleasure a provision of the will of their esteemed fellow-citizen, the late J. S. Brumback. It provides for one of the most valuable, enduring gifts ever donated to the city — practical and beneficial from every standpoint. An additional ornament to our many notable structures; a perpetual benefit to every man, woman and child who seeks knowledge; a high compliment to good citizenship, by a person in a position to know his neighbors and possessed of liberality of spirit and impartiality of discrimination, which enabled him to judge justly of the people with whom he lived and associated, carried on business and transacted the affairs of trade and commerce during the best years of a long and eventful life. Such is the monument J. S. Brumback has provided, which will be erected on a spot of easy access in the center of the city and will implant enduring love and esteem for the generous donor in

the hearts of all who devote their time and thoughts to the training and improvement of their minds and the ennoblement of their lives and characters.

The gift is to be a public library building. It will be a little more than 60x70 feet and will have an elevation of two stories with terraced approaches. The material is to be of stone and the construction as nearly faultless as possible, insuring durability and a pleasing effect. This spacious building is to be furnished throughout to the minutest detail, ready for books and patrons, a free gift from a noble man.

J. S. Brumback came to Van Wert in his young manhood. Here he developed and exercised the commanding qualifications which distinguished him and enabled him so successfully to provide large and ample means for himself and those nearest to him. Moreover, the ties which bound him to the people of his adopted city were strong and he wished to perpetuate them by a noble and enduring gift.

Mr. Brumback contemplated the erection of the library during his lifetime and was greatly disappointed that circumstances were such that he was prevented from doing this. As late as last April, while confined to his home with a fatal disease, he prepared an outline of a proposition to the proper authorities, hopeful that he might enter upon the construction of the building during last summer. Owing to his weak and nervous condition, however, the members of his family were fearful lest the worry and strain of bringing the matter before the public would prove injurious to him, and persuaded him to postpone making the proposition until his health would fairly permit. The heirs all desire to carry out his wishes and ideas as fully as possible. The views of Mr. Brumback as stated in his proposition are therefore of great interest to the public, since they probably express the main conditions upon which the heirs will insist.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, Dec. 18, 1897.

#### MR. BRUMBACK'S PROPOSITION

*"To the Ladies' Library Association, the Hon. Mayor and Common Council of Van Wert and also to the County Commissioners of Van Wert County.*

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

"I submit herewith plans and elevation for a public Library Building which is to be all stone and first-class in every par-



ticular. I have been thinking for two or three years of constructing such a Library Building and donating it to the proper authorities to receive it; have had the drawings made for nearly two years; but the unsettled state of money matters was such that I did not feel at the time like undertaking it. After financial affairs were somewhat settled, my health failed and I have not been able to do anything, but have thought it best now to submit the following proposition:

"I will build said building, put in all furniture and fixtures ready for use, and donate the same to the proper authorities, on the following conditions:

"That you give the privilege to locate said building in Second Ward Park. It will be a great ornament to the Park as well as the Park an ornament to the building. I have always felt a particular interest in finding something that would beautify this Park and think this will do so in a complete manner. I would not care to consider any other location. My present idea would be to place it mid-way between Jefferson Street and the bridge, fronting on, and sitting back from, Main Street, and terraced in a proper manner.

"That you agree to make proper provision to maintain and operate said Library and gradually supply the necessary books and periodicals for it. The plans herewith will be carried out or improved upon.

"If I get better and able to do business, will commence it as soon as possible. If I do not get better and am unable to assume the responsibility of the building, I have inserted a clause in my will providing for my heirs to carry out my ideas. How soon it will be built depends somewhat on my being able to look after details.

"I have had no estimates and have no idea what the cost will be, but you may rest assured that in making a donation like this, no pains or money will be spared in making it a beautiful and substantial building that will stand for all time, a source of benefit and pleasure to our people."

#### LAST WILL OF J. S. BRUMBACK

"In the name of the Benevolent Father of all, I, J. S. Brumback, of Van Wert, Ohio, being of sound mind and disposing memory, do make and publish this my last Will and Testament. It is my will, and I do give, and devise, and bequeath, all my property, both real and personal, as follows:

"ITEM I. I do give, devise and bequeath all my property, both real and personal and mixed, to my dear wife, Ellen P. Brumback, so long as she may live, she to have and enjoy all the income from the same so long as she may live. If it becomes necessary for her comfort and best welfare to use any part of the principal, it is my will that she may do so, in so far as it may be absolutely necessary for her personal comfort and best welfare. The foregoing bequest and devise to my said beloved wife to be in lieu of her dower estate in my property. It is my further will and desire that my said wife leave the management and control of all my said property to my living children (majority controlling), so long as they profitably manage the same.

"ITEM II. I do give, devise and bequeath to my dear children, Orville S. Brumback, David L. Brumback, Estelle B. Reed and Saida M. Brumback, *per stirpes*, all my property, both real, personal and mixed, in fee simple and absolute, subject, however, to the life estate of my dear wife, Ellen P. Brumback, and conditions thereof as contained in Item I. Any notes that I hold against any of my said children, by way of advancement to them, to be taken out of his or her respective share (without interest).

"ITEM III. Feeling a great regard for my fellow townsmen of Van Wert, Ohio, and affection for the said city in which I have spent so many happy years of my life, I have long contemplated a gift to them of a Library Building, as a token of my affection and regard. In that behalf I have had plans prepared for such a building, but owing to the condition of my health have not been permitted to enter upon its construction. It is my will and desire that my said dear wife and children expend sufficient of my estate, willed to them in Items I and II, to carry out my wishes, known to them, by the erection and gift of a Library Building, something after the plans and designs I have had prepared for that purpose; provided, and this item is upon the express condition, that my wife and children can make arrangements satisfactory to them with the said city of Van Wert or, if they desire and think best, with Van Wert County, for a location for said building and the maintenance of the Library to be placed therein.

"ITEM IV. It is my will that my said dear wife and children, or so many of them as may desire to qualify, act as

executors of my estate, without giving bond or having any appraisement thereof. I know that they will not fail to carry out my wishes herein stated, whether sufficiently stated in law or not.

"In witness whereof, I, the said J. S. Brumback, have hereunto set my name and do declare and publish this instrument as my last will at Van Wert, Ohio, this, the 29th day of March, A. D., 1897.

(Seal)

J. S. BRUMBACK.

"The said J. S. Brumback, at Van Wert, Ohio, did on the 29th day of March, A. D., 1897, sign and seal this instrument in our presence and did publish and declare the same as and for his last will, and we, at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other, have hereunto set our names as subscribing witnesses.

(Signed)

FRANK W. LESLIE,  
HENRY C. BOESCHE."

*Van Wert Bulletin*, Dec. 18, 1897.

A PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING DONATED TO THE TOWN OF VAN  
WERT — PLANS OF BUILDING CAN BE SEEN AT LIBRARY

The good news of the provision made in the will of the late J. S. Brumback (which was published last Friday) that he had made a liberal gift of a beautiful and costly public library building to the town of Van Wert was received by the people with great gratification. As mentioned in our last issue, ever since his arrival in Van Wert as a young man, Mr. Brumback has been a leader in enterprises for the good of our people, and now it seems that he has provided that the good work which he did during his life shall through a public library continue after his death.

Mr. Brumback took great interest in our little library established through the efforts of a few of our noble women. He also did much toward making our handsome little parks what they now are. The fine grove of trees shading Second Ward Park was planted by him, so it is no wonder that he selected this beautiful spot as the site where should stand the greatest gift ever given Van Wert and one of the most lasting monuments that a Van Werten could possibly erect.—*Van Wert Republican*, Dec. 23, 1897.

## A BENEFACTOR

The town of Van Wert has been made the offer of a magnificent gift. By the provisions of the last will and testament of the late J. S. Brumback, it is proposed to build one of the finest library buildings in the state and have it donated to Van Wert city and county.

By the terms of his will, Mr. Brumback wants not only to put up this elegant building, but to furnish it completely, ready for the books and the public use of them. It will be seen that the only conditions attached to this generous gift are that the building be located in Second Ward Park, fronting on Main Street, and that the city, joined possibly by the county, make suitable provision for its maintenance and furnish books for the same as they may be needed. Everyone will admit these are essential conditions, and it would be a public disgrace not to meet them.

Every resident of this town and county should unite in praise of this benefaction and in an effort to comply with the fair conditions imposed. It will be an enduring monument to the memory of a grand, good man as well as a perpetual ornament to the park and city. Such a gift and such an institution speak well for the citizenship of Van Wert. It will be a lasting benefit not only to those who were permitted to enjoy the friendship of Mr. Brumback during his lifetime but to generations yet unborn.

It is of interest to state that all the children of Mr. Brumback are not only satisfied with this part of the will but express a desire to carry out the plans and wishes of their father to the minutest details regardless of cost. It is estimated that the cost of a library building such as Mr. Brumback had in mind will be all the way from \$35,000 to \$50,000. No time should be lost by the authorities in accepting such an extraordinary gift.—*The Van Wert Times*, Dec. 24, 1897.

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## THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY

By the generous provisions of J. S. Brumback's will the citizens of Van Wert city and county are to have one of the finest public library buildings in the state. There is nothing which could be more desired at the present time for the

adornment of the town and for the mental and moral cultivation of the people. A good free library is worth more to us than half a dozen opera houses, desirable as a commodious assemblage room would be. A good gymnasium or Y. M. C. A. building is perhaps the next thing to be desired, and, in time, no doubt, it will come. The present public library has made a good beginning with its small resources, and is well patronized, but nothing ample or adequate to the needs of our progressive city could be done until some wealthy and generous citizen stepped forth with the gift of a permanent home. This Mr. Brumback has done, and his plans and proposals are made in a munificent style, yet on conditions of maintenance which seem to us very easy and most favorable for the community. Van Wert is certainly to be heartily congratulated on her good fortune in receiving such a noble bequest.—*The Van Wert Presbyterian*, January, 1898.

## CHAPTER III

### PROPOSITION OF HEIRS AND THE COUNTY LIBRARY LAW OF OHIO

BRUMBACK LIBRARY — PROPOSITIONS AND SUGGESTIONS BY THE HEIRS OF THE LATE J. S. BRUMBACK — AUTHORITIES MENTIONED SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT THE GENEROUS GIFT — OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT OUR CITIZENS THROUGHOUT THE TOWN AND COUNTY SHOULD UNANIMOUSLY ACCEDE TO THE REQUESTS MADE

*“To the Ladies’ Library Association, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Van Wert and the County Commissioners of Van Wert County, Ohio.*

“LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

“As you are doubtless aware, the will of the late J. S. Brumback provides for the construction by his estate of a stone library building in first-class condition ready for use, in the town of Van Wert, provided his heirs can make satisfactory arrangements for the location and maintenance of the building and library to be placed therein.

“The undersigned heirs of his estate are unanimous in their desire to fully carry out the wishes of Mr. Brumback as an enduring memorial to ‘one who loved his fellowmen.’ Hence, we have considered the subject of the best mode of undertaking the enterprise, and herein submit to you our conclusions on the subject.

“So far as the matter of location is concerned, there can be little question that the Second Ward Park is the most desirable place that can be suggested. Mr. Brumback planted the trees in that park and, watching their growth for twenty-five years, was very solicitous that something might be added to the park to complete its ornamentation. We do not believe that there will be any objection to the location of the library in that park.

“The subject of the maintenance of the library is one of

greatest importance. It is apparent that there should be ample provision for supplying proper and sufficient books and periodicals for the library, otherwise the building, however fine, would be no credit either to the donor or to the donee. The library inside the building should be in keeping with the exterior of the building, and to secure that end we are especially solicitous.

"The will does not determine whether the free library is to be a town or a county institution; but we are persuaded that the benefits to be derived from the bequest should be extended to the people of the entire county, as well as the town of Van Wert, for many reasons, principal among which are the following:

"First, by making it a county institution 30,000 people will be enabled to share the privileges of the library, whereas if it is restricted to the town, only 8,000 people will be benefited.

"Second, Mr. Brumback's associations and intimate acquaintance extended throughout the county, and we know his primary desire was that his fellow citizens in the county as well as in the town should be benefited by his gift, if that end could be fairly accomplished.

"Third, it would not cost any more to maintain and operate the library for the benefit of the citizens of the whole county, than it would for the benefit of the citizens of the town.

"Fourth, there is no real objection to permitting the people in the county to draw books from the library. The distance to which they would be taken is not much greater than distant suburban districts in some of our large cities. By a proper system of rules and fines the books would be as speedily and promptly returned from the country as in the town.

"Fifth, it will be necessary to equip the library with books and maintain it by taxation. We are advised that the total tax duplicate of the town is \$1,800,000 [1890 appraisement] and its indebtedness is about \$200,000; whereas the total tax duplicate of the county is \$9,000,000 [1890 appraisement] and its indebtedness only about \$100,800. The town is now incurring, and will in the future be called upon to incur, large expense in paving streets, building sewers and making other municipal improvements, which together with its present indebtedness and small tax duplicate as compared with the county's duplicate, renders its ability to provide for the library much less than that of the county.

"As to the conditions which should enter into the arrangement with the county, we have thought the following would commend themselves as being proper and not in any wise burdensome, viz:—

"1. That the library be called THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY, in honor of him who made it possible.

"2. That the county agree to levy an annual tax of not less than six-tenths of a mill for library purposes upon all the taxable property of the county.

"While a levy of one mill for two or three years in the start is most desirable, yet the minimum amount proposed of six-tenths of a mill would serve to make a beginning and would in time produce a creditable library. We believe the people will heartily favor a liberal levy when they learn the benefit of having the latest and best literature of the day provided for them at a cost so nominal to the largest tax-payer that he would not know he was paying it.

"3. We believe it would be well to have the library managed and controlled by a non-partisan board of seven trustees, who should be appointed for a term of three (3) years and not more than two of whom should go out of office in any one year. To insure the success of the library, we have thought it would be well to have these seven trustees appointed as follows:

"Two to be appointed by the Ladies' Library Association, the Association to turn over to the library all their present books and property; three to be appointed by the County Commissioners; and two to be appointed by the heirs of J. S. Brumback, or their descendants. In case the Ladies' Library Association, or the Brumback heirs, should fail for a period of ninety (90) days to make their respective appointments from time to time, then the Common Council of the City of Van Wert, to make such appointments. We believe that some such system of appointment will secure the best talent that can be had for the direction of the library, and will give the control and management to those who are most vitally interested in its success.

"If the county is to secure the library, it is necessary that the County Commissioners as the representatives of the county enter into an agreement for its maintenance and operation that we may know it will not prove a failure. We understand, however, that there is no present law to authorize the



county to provide or maintain a public library. The law makes ample provision for the town to do so, authorizing it to bind itself to carry out conditions of a bequest for library purposes (Rev. Stat. Sec. 1692), but no such authority has ever been conferred upon the county.

"It will be necessary therefore for a law to be passed by the Legislature, authorizing the County Commissioners to take the proper action in the matter on behalf of the county. We understand a bill has been introduced in the Legislature to meet this need. [Bill drawn by O. S. Brumback. See page 24]. Permit us to suggest that if anything is to be accomplished this year, each of your organizations should appoint a committee to see that a proper bill to authorize the County Commissioners to act is speedily passed by the Legislature.

"Hoping the foregoing suggestions may commend themselves to your judgment; and assuring you that we have no desire to attach any conditions to the bequest not absolutely necessary to insure the best results, we remain

Very respectfully yours,

ELLEN P. BRUMBACK.

ORVILLE S. BRUMBACK.

DAVID L. BRUMBACK.

ESTELLE B. REED.

SAIDA M. BRUMBACK [Mrs. E. I. Antrim].

Van Wert, O., Jan'y 31, 1898."—*Van Wert Republican*, Feb. 3, 1898.

#### COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The city council held a special session, Tuesday evening, February 1, to act upon matters demanding immediate attention. The members present were Hott, Baird, Newcomer, Barnard, Spayd and Shaffer. The proposition of the Brumback heirs was read and favorably received by every member. Baird and Barnard were appointed a committee to confer with the County Commissioners on the matter.—*Van Wert Republican*, Feb. 3, 1898.

The erection of a library building, such as it is proposed to donate to the county or the city of Van Wert, will necessitate an outlay of a large sum of money by the Brumback estate. It is a matter of great importance. All the conditions of this

magnificent donation should be fully understood in advance and carefully met.

The library should be the property of the county, extending its benefits to all citizens thereof. The day was when *the country came to the town for school teachers*, but that time is a thing of the past. The rule is reversed. *The country is sending teachers to the towns*. The largest per cent of studious persons is in the country; therefore, the greatest demand for books is in the rural districts.

It was the wish of the donor that the library be placed where it will do the most good. By all means let that be done.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, Feb. 4, 1898.

A GENEROUS GIFT — THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY BEQUEST TO VAN WERT — SKETCH OF THE FOUNDER — HIS HUMBLE BEGINNING AND STURDY GROWTH — DIED A PUBLIC BENEFACTOR — A MOVE TO MAKE IT BY PUBLIC COOPERATION THE CENTER OF A COUNTY INSTITUTION

No pen can describe the many words of gratitude heard expressed on every hand by the citizens of the thriving little city of Van Wert, and the people of the county in general, since they have heard the good news of the provisions made in the will of the late John Sanford Brumback, former president of the Van Wert National Bank. When the seal of the envelope containing his last will and testament was broken, Peabody's sentence, "Education, a debt due from present to future generations," proved to be the main theme; and it was then made public that the once poor teamster and dry-goods clerk, who had to start out on life's journey with but limited knowledge, but who, through thrift and perseverance, had achieved success in life, had made his adopted town and county of Van Wert a noble gift of a beautiful library building, to build and furnish which it will cost about \$40,000.

What is now very gratifying to the people of the county is that the heirs of the estate of Mr. Brumback are unanimous in their desire to carry out fully his wishes as an endearing memorial to one who loved his fellow-men; their only proviso being (and it is a wise one) that satisfactory arrangements may be made with the county properly to maintain the same. The city of Van Wert will be too glad of the privilege of putting a creditable library in the building and maintaining

the same should the county fail to do so, and while the will does not determine whether the free library is to be a town or a county institution, the heirs are persuaded that the primary desire of Mr. Brumback was that his fellow citizens, in the county as well as in the town, should be benefited by his gift, if that end could be fairly accomplished.

It would not cost any more to maintain a library for the benefit of the people of the whole county than it would for the benefit of the citizens of the town. As it is necessary to equip the library with books and maintain it properly by taxation, it is proposed to make this a county library, and thus 30,000 people will share in the benefits as well as help to maintain it, making the cost for all tax-payers in the county nominal. We understand, however, there is no present law to authorize the county to accept such gifts and to provide for their maintenance. To meet the above requirements and for the benefit of our people in the rural districts throughout the state, a bill is about to be presented to the legislature, authorizing county commissioners to receive on behalf of the public such bequests and to make suitable provisions for their maintenance.

### THE BILL

"To supplement Section 891 of the Revised Statutes of Ohio, so as to provide for the acceptance of Bequests, Donations, and Gifts for Public Libraries, and to Equip and Maintain the same.

"SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, that Section 891, of the Revised Statutes of Ohio, be supplemented so as to read as follows:

"Section 891 (a). The Commissioners may receive a bequest, donation, or gift of a building, or property wherewith to construct a building for a County Public Library in the county-seat of the county; and may enter into an agreement on behalf of the county to provide and maintain a Public Library therein. Any county accepting such bequest, donation or gift shall be bound to faithfully carry out the agreement so made to provide and maintain such Library.

"Section 2. The Commissioners of any such county are hereby authorized, at the March or June session each year, to levy a tax of not exceeding one mill on each dollar of taxable property of such county, and the fund derived from such levy shall constitute

a special fund to be known as Library Fund, and shall be used for no purpose other than is contemplated in this section.

"Section 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage." \*

As already noted, the foregoing article appeared in the *Commercial-Tribune*, of Cincinnati, under date of February 13, 1898, as well as in other well-known city daily papers of the state about the same time. It is given to show that Mr. Brumback's idea of establishing a county library was pretty well known over the state before the passage of the law relative to the same and that the Cincinnati Library Board may have received the inspiration from this article that led to their drafting a county library measure which, because of its provisions, applied to only two of the eighty-eight counties of the state—Cuyahoga and Hamilton—and which was presented to the Ohio Legislature *after* the Van Wert Bill had been introduced. The general Van Wert law was passed a few days later (Apr. 26, 1898) than the special Cincinnati law (Apr. 21, 1898), although it was introduced earlier, for the reason that considerable effort on the part of the Brumback heirs was required to secure its passage, since it applied to the whole state.

There was some opposition to taxing a county for county library purposes, even in Van Wert County. Pending the acceptance of the proposition of the Brumback heirs several editorials appeared in two Van Wert County papers in opposition to a county library supported by a county tax. This sentiment was inspired by individuals in the county, far-removed from the county-seat, who felt that they should not be obligated to contribute to the maintenance of a county library distantly located. But before the building was completed and the library opened this opposition had disappeared and has never once reappeared.

\* Cincinnati *Commercial-Tribune*, Feb. 13, 1898. This article also appeared in the *Toledo Blade*, Feb. 12, 1898, and in *The Ohio State Journal*, Columbus, Feb. 13, 1898.

The following indicates the discussion upon this subject:

LIBRARY BEQUEST — CALLS OUT SOME UNJUST NEWSPAPER  
CRITICISM

An offer of a bequest, magnificent and beneficial, by the late J. S. Brumback, has called out newspaper criticism, which is unjust and misleading, and is made in the interest of a class who oppose all public improvements. The *Ft. Wayne* (Indiana) *Gazette*, basing its expression of opinion on information of this kind, says:

"Van Wert, having received a legacy for a new library building, now wants the county to furnish the books. There is nothing small about Van Wert. When they get their books, if they will send them over to Fort Wayne, we will try to furnish readers."

There is nothing small about Van Wert, it is admitted, but it can be proved that there is something small about such items as the above.

The Brumback Library legacy has not been accepted, but is offered, a free gift, to the county. The building is to be substantially built, of stone, at a cost of about \$50,000, in a park which was a free gift by another public-spirited citizen, and which is worth in money more than the proposed library. Here are donations, aggregating more than \$100,000 in value, which the public can have by merely providing for the proper care of the property.

The benefits of this magnificent gift are tendered to all the people of Van Wert County, on easy terms. Here will be deposited a library for all the people, in which will be assembled books of reference of various kinds, so often needed by but not of easy access to a large class of young men and women seeking educational and literary benefits. The young men and women in the rural districts spend most of their evenings with books and papers. They do not loiter in the corner grocery, the gilded saloon or any other public resort. They are becoming town school teachers and substantial, reliable business men. The benefits of the library are offered to them and others as a gift, on condition that the county take care of the building. There are, however, a lot of close-fisted people who will not take a gift on these easy terms. They are standing in the pathway of every worthy country boy and girl who is seeking an education.

The town of Van Wert will accept the gift in the event the county declines it. The town has a good library, worth a large sum of money, provided for and open to the public at all times, through the generosity of our citizens. This library will be donated to the Brumback Library Trustees when they are ready to receive it. Van Wert does not ask anybody to buy its books, but on the other hand is well supplied with books of its own and is ready to loan them and buy more for the people.

There are towns in this county which have no libraries and never will have, and they are opposed to the one now offered on such easy terms. They inspire such items as the above by their useless and unreasonable faultfinding.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, Feb. 15, 1898.

THE PROPOSED BRUMBACK LIBRARY — A COSTLY AND HANDSOME  
STRUCTURE OF WHICH ANY COUNTY MIGHT FEEL PROUD

We are delighted with the privilege of presenting to our readers pictures of the late J. S. Brumback and the magnificent proposed library building which he generously offered to the county. With a few exceptions the citizens all over the county are unanimous in wanting to accept this enduring gift. It would cost no more to maintain a library for the entire county than for the town alone. The general tax for such a purpose would not exceed on the average two-tenths of a mill, and from an educational standpoint the advantages to be derived are inestimable.

There is no sound reason why the Legislature should not pass the bill already prepared, which simply provides that county commissioners may accept such bequests on behalf of the public and make suitable provisions for their maintenance. The effect of the law is not compulsory, but merely to afford an opportunity. The heirs are all anxious that the necessary arrangements be made, so that the library may be erected this spring.—*Van Wert Times*, Feb. 18, 1898.

Some of the editors in the county outside of the city of Van Wert appear to be entertaining adverse opinions in the matter of all the tax-payers in the county bearing their share of the expense of maintaining a public library. The value of good books to any family or individual is not, and cannot be, estimated in dollars and cents; therefore, our country pencil pushers should deem it a great benefit as well as pleasure (and

every fair-minded person will consider it so), to have the privilege of contributing a few shekels each year to assist in promoting a higher state of culture; for culture brings refinement, and both together make a better citizenship. According to the proposition the books in the proposed library (and this will include the 1800 books already in the present Van Wert library) will be free to all tax-payers, at a trifling cost. But few heads of families could afford to purchase such an array of books as are already the property of the Van Wert Library Association; indeed if the ordinary tax-payers were compelled to purchase a small portion of them they would have to spend several hundred dollars. Then, again, one of the greatest things to be considered is that, by paying this trifling sum each year, we put ourselves in a position to help those who are not able to help themselves, and this means the poor not only of Van Wert town, but also of the entire county. The jails are usually filled with the illiterate; hence, if a higher state of culture existed, it would likely in time bring about a better state of affairs, which would have a tendency to decrease the number of "jail birds," thus saving enough to meet the entire expense of operating the library. It is, indeed, a rare occurrence that a donation of this magnitude is left for such a noble purpose, to be used for the benefit of the entire county, if the people feel disposed to accept of it.

Whether or not the country people will avail themselves of the privilege of sharing in the use of the building and library by paying their share for the benefits, remains to be seen, but we are sure Van Wert town-people will gladly accept the bequest and supply the building with a good library. Our opinion is, however, that the country people, as a whole, will deem it a great privilege, and that there will not be a dissenting voice when the proper time to act comes, for it is simply a question of whether or not our country people want to pay their share to maintain the library, providing they share in its benefits, and even if they accept of the generous offer Van Wert town-people will be paying more in proportion than the people living outside the corporate limits, for the simple reason that town property is assessed almost a third higher than country property.—*Van Wert Republican*, Feb. 24, 1898.

The *Ohio City News* is very much opposed to taxing the county for library purposes. It makes a great difference

whether a man can read or not. But, T — , the library will contain some picture books, too.— *Van Wert Democrat*, Feb. 24, 1898.

The state of Ohio can boast of no handsomer public library building than the proposed edifice which Van Wert hopes to erect this coming spring. The will of the late J. S. Brumback makes provision for the institution, and since the legacy is ample it will no doubt be accepted with the gratitude befitting so generous a donation. The new building will be second to none in the state, considering size.— *Convoy* (Van Wert County) *Crescent*, Feb. 25, 1898.

POMONA GRANGE — AN INTERESTING MEETING WITH LARGE ATTENDANCE — THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY PROPOSITION DISCUSSED AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

The regular meeting of the Van Wert County Pomona Grange was held Thursday, March 31. Eleven members of Ridge Grange received the fifth degree in the forenoon. The afternoon session was an open meeting. The program was furnished by Ridge Grange.

First was a song, "America," followed by an address by J. S. Stuckey.

Song, "Jolly Old Farmer."

Declamation, by Frances Gilliland, "John Burns at Gettysburg."

Paper by William Johnson, "Little Things."

Song, "Serenade."

Paper by Ira Gilliland, "Contentment."

Topical song, "Join the Grange," by Lucy Stuckey, Louie Palmer and Frank Palmer.

Declamation by Mamie Palmer.

Anthem, "How Beautiful is Zion."

Reading by E. S. Stuckey, "How and What to Read."

Quartette, "Battle Cry of Freedom."

The program was well prepared and very interesting.

The topic, "The Brumback Library," was next considered. The discussion occupied nearly an hour and was participated in by a large number of members. Nearly all the speakers approved of the county accepting the proposition and levying a tax to support the proposed library. None of the speakers



opposed the plan unconditionally: a few were waiting for more information as to plan, cost, etc. A motion was made and recorded that it was the sense of the meeting that we approve of the acceptance of the proposition. The vote on the motion was, yeas 53, nays 5.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, March 31, 1898.

The action of the Pomona Grange in regard to the Brumback Library is significant. We believe that a majority of the farmers are in favor of making the library a county affair, especially those having pikes to Van Wert, and why shouldn't they be? It will be a benefit to the farmer and his family. The long winter evenings can be spent with pleasure as well as with profit following a course of instructive reading.—*Van Wert Bulletin* (Venedocia Items), April 8, 1898.

That county library—let us have it—and let town and country people share alike in the expense and benefits, and no one will be hurt. What an uplift it would be to our noble county and an honor to the memory of a worthy citizen.—*Van Wert Bulletin* (Jennings Township Items), April 8, 1898.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE CONTRACT

THE BRUMBACK MEMORIAL LIBRARY DULY OFFERED THE PEOPLE  
OF VAN WERT COUNTY — COPY OF CONDITIONS UPON  
WHICH THIS GREAT GIFT IS MADE

FOR several months those who have the welfare of Van Wert County at heart have been inquiring what was being done toward accepting the late J. S. Brumback's magnificent gift to the county of a fine library building. Owing to the absence of Hon. O. S. Brumback in the West, the matter has been delayed somewhat, and nothing could be done until his return. The heirs have now submitted to the proper authorities a contract, upon the signing of which, they will at once proceed to erect and furnish a public library building of which any county in the state could well feel proud. The heirs of the late J. S. Brumback, desiring that this liberal gift might prove a benefit to all the residents of the county, have wisely determined to offer it to the entire county. Let it be distinctly understood that the city of Van Wert has never had the offer of this magnificent gift, does not now, and we fear never will, have, except as it is a part of the county. The heirs have concluded to offer it to 30,000 people and not to limit its benefits to 8,000 people.

The Van Wert Library Association stands ready to donate its little library of nearly 2000 volumes, as well as other properties, as a starter for a good county library. We understand, if the offer is accepted and the building erected, that local librarians will be appointed in every district in the county and that the rules and regulations will be made such that the people living in the remotest parts of the county may borrow just as many books to read at their homes as those living nearest the building.

The progressive farmers of our county have already, at their meetings, expressed their willingness to accept so

generous a gift and to pay their mite toward its proper maintenance. A copy of the contract given below has been presented to the Ladies' Library Association, the Board of County Commissioners and the Common Council of Van Wert. There is no reason whatever why any member of these bodies should hesitate to sign the contract on behalf of the people. We fear this may be the last opportunity to accept or reject a proposition from the Brumback heirs, so that if the contract is not signed the people of Van Wert County may forever lose the privilege of receiving a gift that would be a blessing not only to the present generation but to generations yet unborn. We look for prompt action to be taken in the matter, and it is a settled fact that all who bend their efforts to secure such a gift for Van Wert County will be forever considered benefactors of the people of our county.—*Van Wert Republican*, July 28, 1898.

"VAN WERT, Ohio, July 16, 1898.

*"To the Ladies' Library Association, the Board of County Commissioners of Van Wert County, Ohio, and the Common Council of the City of Van Wert, Ohio.*

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

"To carry out the will of the late J. S. Brumback, we hand you herewith a copy of a contract we have prepared providing for the construction of a Library Building in the Second Ward Park of Van Wert, Ohio, and for the maintenance therein of a free public library for the benefit of the citizens of Van Wert County, Ohio.

"We have endeavored by the terms of the contract to insure the success of the library when the building is erected in accordance with the designs which Mr. Brumback had prepared for it.

"We request that your respective bodies give the matter your early consideration and advise us if the terms meet your approval.

*"We believe such a library will prove so great a success that other counties in the state will in a few years acquire like institutions.*

"Assuring you of our desire to facilitate the project in every reasonable way, we remain

Sincerely yours,

ELLEN P. BRUMBACK,

ORVILLE S. BRUMBACK,

DAVID L. BRUMBACK,

ESTELLE B. REED,

SAIDA M. BRUMBACK [Mrs. E. I. Antrim]."

## AGREEMENT \*

"WHEREAS, The will of the late J. S. Brumback provides as follows:

"'Feeling a great regard for my fellow townsmen of Van Wert, Ohio, and affection for the said city in which I have spent so many happy years of my life, I have long contemplated a gift to them of a library building as a token of my affection and regard. In that behalf I have had plans prepared for such a building, but owing to the condition of my health I have not been permitted to enter upon its construction. It is my will and desire that my said dear wife and children expend sufficient of my estate willed to them, in items one and two, to carry out my wishes known to them, by the erection and gift of a library building, something after the plans and designs I have had prepared for that purpose; provided, and this item is on the express condition, that my said wife and children can make arrangements satisfactory to them with the said city of Van Wert, or, if they desire and think best, with Van Wert County, for a location for said building and the maintenance of the library to be placed therein.'

"AND WHEREAS, the heirs of the estate of the said J. S. Brumback are unanimous in their desire to fully carry out his wishes as expressed in his will;

"AND WHEREAS, a free public library would be of inestimable benefit to the people of Van Wert County, Ohio, and afford to them, their children and descendants most valuable privileges and educational advantages;

"NOW THEREFORE, for the purpose of carrying out the will of the said J. S. Brumback, to establish a free public library for the people of Van Wert County, Ohio, and to provide for the proper equipment and maintenance thereof,

"It is agreed by and between Ellen P. Brumback, Orville S. Brumback, David L. Brumback, Estelle B. Reed and Saida M. Brumback, heirs of the said J. S. Brumback, parties of the first part; and H. H. Ludwig, Peter Knittle and H. G. Schumm, County Commissioners of Van Wert County, Ohio, and their successors in office, parties of the second part; and the Ladies' Library Association of Van Wert, Ohio, party of the third part; and the City of Van Wert, Ohio, party of the fourth part, as follows, to-wit:

"The parties of the first part do covenant and agree that they

\* Agreement prepared by O. S. Brumback, who was at the time president of the Toledo, Ohio, Public Library Board.

will with all reasonable dispatch build and construct a stone library building in the Second Ward Park of the city of Van Wert, Ohio, in first-class condition, substantially as shown in the drawings which the said J. S. Brumback has made therefor in his lifetime, and will furnish the same with the necessary furniture and heating apparatus, ready for use for the library to be placed therein, as hereinafter provided.

"And the parties of the first part further agree to turn over and donate on behalf of the said J. S. Brumback's estate said library building, so built and constructed, to the county of Van Wert, Ohio, free of all encumbrances or charges thereon, to be held by said county and used for library and educational purposes only.

"In consideration of the receipt of the said library building and the donation thereof as aforesaid to the county of Van Wert, Ohio,

"The parties of the second part do covenant and agree for themselves and their successors in office that the said Van Wert County will forever maintain and operate in said building a free public library for the benefit of the citizens of the whole county. And in that behalf do promise and agree that the Commissioners of said Van Wert County will each year at their March or June session levy a tax as the Board of Trustees of said library may designate, not exceeding one-half a mill upon each dollar of taxable property of said Van Wert County, to form a library fund with which to so maintain and operate said library. Said library fund so to be raised by said tax shall constitute a special fund in the hands of the treasurer of Van Wert County, Ohio, to be drawn upon only by the Board of Trustees of said library as hereinafter provided.

"Said parties of the second part further covenant and agree that the said parties of the first part shall have full right and authority to enter upon the said Second Ward Park in the city of Van Wert, and there construct said building in compliance with the plans and directions of the architect thereof with the right to occupy, grade, improve and embellish said park as may be directed by the architect of said building.

"The parties of the third part (a duly incorporated association under the laws of the state of Ohio), in consideration of the construction and donation of said library building by the parties of the first part, do covenant and agree that they will turn over and donate to the free public library to be placed in said building all the books, furniture, money or other personal property of said

association, to be and become the property of the said County Library.

"And the party of the fourth part (a duly incorporated village, and county-seat of Van Wert County, Ohio), in consideration of the construction and donation of the said library building by the parties of the first part, does covenant and agree that the said parties of the first part shall have full permission to enter upon the said Second Ward Park in the city of Van Wert, Ohio, there to construct said building, and to occupy, grade, improve and embellish said park as may be directed by the architect of said building.

"It is further mutually covenanted and agreed by and between all the parties hereto, that the said County Library herein provided for shall be called THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY. It shall be managed and controlled by a non-partisan board of seven trustees, who shall be appointed for a term of three years, and until their successors are duly appointed, as follows, to-wit: two to be appointed by the parties of the first part or their descendants; three to be appointed by the parties of the second part or their successors, and two to be appointed by the party of the third part.

"Provided, that the first appointees shall hold office from the first day of February, 1899, as follows, to-wit:

"One of those to be appointed by the parties of the first part to hold office for one year, and one for three years. One of those to be appointed by the parties of the second part or their successors to hold office for one year, one for two years and one for three years. One of those to be appointed by the party of the third part to hold office for one year, and one for two years.

"In case the parties of the first part or the parties of the third part shall fail for a period of ninety days to make their respective appointments of trustees from time to time, then the Common Council of the party of the fourth part shall make such appointments.

"The said trustees shall duly qualify by taking an oath of office to faithfully fulfill all the duties of their positions to the best of their knowledge and ability during their respective terms of office. They shall organize by the election of a president, vice-president and secretary, who shall hold their offices for one year and until their successors are elected. Said officers shall be elected by ballot at the first regular meeting of the Board after the first day of February in each year, a majority of the whole Board being required to elect.

"The president of the said Board of Trustees shall be president of the library, and it shall be his duty as such to preside at all meetings of the Board, appoint all standing committees, and otherwise act as the executive head of the Board of Trustees and perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office.

"The vice-president, in the absence of the president, shall perform his duties, and in case of death, removal or resignation shall perform the duties of the president until a president is elected to serve for the unexpired time.

"The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees, together with accurate accounts of all receipts and expenditures of money for and on behalf of the library. He shall pay over to the county treasurer of Van Wert County, each month, for the benefit of the library fund, all moneys received by the library, and shall take and keep on file for six years vouchers for all moneys expended. He shall render a complete and accurate financial statement of the library as shown by his books to the parties of the second part on or before the end of each fiscal year, to-wit: the first day of February in each year; and perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office.

"All warrants on the county treasurer of Van Wert County for payment of moneys out of the special library fund shall only be issued upon an aye and nay vote of the Board of Trustees entered upon the minutes and signed by the president of the Board and countersigned by the secretary. Four trustees shall constitute a quorum of the Board, but no appropriation shall be made or indebtedness incurred to an amount exceeding \$100, without the concurring vote of a majority of all members of the Board.

"The Board of Trustees shall employ a librarian and other necessary persons to properly keep and carry on said library and library building, and shall fix their reasonable compensation. The term of office of all regular employees shall expire on the first day of March each year, and they shall be subject to removal at any time at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees.

"The Board of Trustees shall prescribe such further rules and regulations for the direction and operation of the library as they may deem advisable.

"IN EVIDENCE WHEREOF witness the signatures of each and every one of the parties hereto at Van Wert, Ohio, this 16th day of July, A. D., 1898.

ELLEN P. BRUMBACK,

ORVILLE S. BRUMBACK,

SAIDA M. BRUMBACK [Mrs. E. I. Antrim]."

DAVID L. BRUMBACK,

ESTELLE B. REED,

A GIFT ACCEPTED—THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY BUILDING WILL  
BE ERECTED—THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GIVE UNANI-  
MOUS CONSENT FOR ITS MAINTENANCE

At the office of the Van Wert County Commissioners, on Saturday last, one of the most important meetings ever held in this county took place, and its acts have passed into history. The proceedings will adorn a bright page. They secure to this county an educational distinction possessed by no other county in the prosperous Northwest.

The County Commissioners, by their act, have honored themselves and have made a record to which they can point with pride in all time to come and which will grow in favor as the years pass. By voting unanimously to accept the proposition of the heirs of the late J. S. Brumback they have secured for Van Wert County the most valuable gift ever bestowed upon the citizens of the county, a gift which will remain for all time a monument to the generosity of the donor, an embellishment to our magnificent park and a lasting benefit to every citizen of the county.

Many representative citizens from all parts of the county were present at this meeting of the County Commissioners and they were almost unanimously in favor of the proposition submitted by the heirs of the Brumback estate. Many school teachers spoke and urged the County Commissioners, in the interest of education, to vote yes. Farmers from all parts of the county spoke in favor of the library. The opposition, as a rule, comes from persons who are misinformed and believe that Van Wert County is asked to "build a library for the town of Van Wert."

The following is a record of the journal of the commissioners of Van Wert County:

"Office of County Commissioners,

"Van Wert County, Ohio.

"This 30th day of July, 1898, the Board of County Commissioners of Van Wert County, Ohio, being in special session, present, H. H. Ludwig, Peter Knittle and H. G. Schumm, County Commissioners, and T. M. Berry, auditor of Van Wert County and clerk of said Board, considered the question of accepting or rejecting the proposition of the heirs of a late esteemed fellow citizen, J. S. Brumback, to build and equip a Public Library Building ready for occupancy and books in Van Wert, Ohio, which



proposition and the contract to carry out the intention of all parties interested therein are as follows: [Here appears a copy of the contract.]

“‘I move [motion made by Peter Knittle and seconded by H. G. Schumm] that the Board of County Commissioners of Van Wert County, Ohio, accept the proposition of the heirs of the late J. S. Brumback for the erection of a Public Library Building at Van Wert, Ohio, and that this Board sign the contract filed therewith to bind the county of Van Wert, Ohio, to provide the money to maintain and operate the same and otherwise to carry out the provisions of said contract.’ The Board having carefully examined said proposition and contract, and having heard the expressions of many tax-payers thereon and being fully advised in the premises, the president put said motion and ordered the roll called for a *viva voce* vote, and said Commissioners voted thereon as follows: H. H. Ludwig voted aye, Peter Knittle voted aye, H. G. Schumm voted aye. The president of said Board declared said motion carried. ‘It is therefore ordered that said Board of County Commissioners of Van Wert County, Ohio, sign said contract and bind said county to carry out the conditions imposed upon it and to accept the benefits to be derived therefrom and the same is accordingly done.’”—*Van Wert Bulletin* Aug. 1, 1898.

The public act of the County Commissioners, accepting the magnificent Brumback County Memorial Library Building, deserves more than a passing notice. The matter has been before the people for several months and their almost universal verdict was that the gift should be gratefully accepted without delay. It was a gift that could not be estimated in dollars and cents. The shelves and archives of the library will be filled with the choicest of literature to which every resident of the county will have free access. This privilege will in time raise the already high standard of intelligence of our county people. The act of the Commissioners is indeed commendable and reflects great credit on their good judgment for the future welfare of Van Wert County.

The people are universally pleased to learn that the County Commissioners have signed the contract that will assure Van Wert county a magnificent gift—THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY.—*Van Wert Republican*, Aug. 4, 1898.

We noticed in last week's issue of the Republican a proposition made by the Brumback heirs offering the county a fine library building. Our people are much pleased to learn that the commissioners have accepted the same.—(Union Township Items) *Van Wert Republican*.

Now, Editor — will be compelled to cut down his cigar account, and cannot have the pleasure of burning so much money in the curling smoke of a fine cigar. Poor fellow, is it any wonder that he vigorously kicks every possible chance he has? He does not want to give his children, in common with other children in the county, the chance to see and peruse the best books published, for it will cost him the enormous sum of about forty cents a year, and that's outrageous, why it is simply awful. Then, there is Brother —, he too will be charged, bye and bye, a few cents more taxes every year, to enable 30,000 people in Van Wert County to have free access to a treasury filled with the cream of thought of the ablest men and women of the past and present. It's too much of a burden for these two men. Someone should pass around the collection basket to help them pay their enormous library tax when it becomes due a year hence.—*Van Wert Republican*.

The action of the commissioners will be endorsed especially by the farmers and their families. All obstacles now being removed, work on the structure need not be necessarily delayed.—*Van Wert Democrat*, Aug. 4, 1898.

BRUMBACK LIBRARY ACCEPTED—BRUMBACK HEIRS ANNOUNCE  
THAT WORK WILL BE COMMENCED IMMEDIATELY

The County Commissioners' Office was the scene last Saturday afternoon of an unusual meeting. It was a meeting of public-spirited and influential citizens from all parts of the county, invited by the Board to present arguments either for or against the proposition to accept the Brumback Library on the terms formulated by the heirs. Those who spoke were unanimously in favor of the county accepting the gift and making all the necessary provisions for its proper and permanent maintenance. Not only were many school teachers there, but representative farmers who have no selfish or personal interest in the matter, except to promote the welfare of the

whole county. The Commissioners were informed that the question had been submitted to a vote at a meeting of Pomona Grange last week and that out of fifty-eight votes cast, fifty-three were yes and only five no. This, it was urged, shows the attitude of the leading farmers. They understand that the benefits to be derived are not local but general, and that people in the county will have exactly the same advantages as residents of the city.

The library will furnish books for all, valuable not alone for the present day but for future generations. It will be a great help to students and supplement the work of our public school system.

To support this magnificent institution will require but a mite from each individual tax-payer. No one complains of being taxed to support the public schools, and none will refuse when asked to contribute an insignificant sum each year to keep up a big library and in that way promote the efficiency of the schools. The railroads will pay one-fifth of all the tax, Van Wert City will pay another fifth, so that little over one-half will fall upon the entire county outside of this town. Such were some of the reasons advanced on the side of the county accepting the library. It is pleasant to have it recorded that when the commissioners said they were ready to hear arguments against the proposition there was not a voice raised.—*Van Wert Times*, Aug. 5, 1898.

A worthy gift bestowed upon the people of Van Wert County: The Brumback Memorial Library, Van Wert, Ohio.—*Convoy Crescent* (Van Wert County), Aug. 5, 1898.

Hurrah for the Brumback Library.—*Van Wert Times* (Wide Awake Corners Items), Aug. 12, 1898.

BRUMBACK LIBRARY—ARCHITECT STINE, OF TOLEDO, WILL  
HAVE CHARGE OF THE WORK

The heirs of the Brumback estate are busy today with the preliminary arrangements for the erection of the Brumback Library Building.

Hon. O. S. Brumback, of Toledo, is here, accompanied by architect D. L. Stine, of that city, and they are holding a meeting, attended by the Park Commissioners and many citizens. Their first business is to locate the building site. A large majority, and this includes the architect, favor a liberal

stretch of lawn on the Main Street front. This will add to the beauty and dignity of the structure, affording a relief for the terraces which are to encircle it. It is the prevailing opinion that Van Wert already has too many handsome buildings on crowded lots—hampered by their surroundings and without a stretch of lawn to relieve the eye and set out in bold relief their fine proportions.

Architect D. L. Stine gained a wide reputation as builder of the Toledo county court house. It is recognized the country over as one of the handsomest and most practical structures of the kind in the West.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, Sept. 9, 1898.

In a conversation with two of the heirs, a representative of the *Republican* learned that the contract for the foundation will be let this fall so that work on the building proper may be commenced early in the spring. The surplus dirt taken off Main Street, which will be improved in the spring, will be used in filling up approaches and grading around the building.—*Van Wert Republican*, Sept. 1898.

IN ALL FUTURE TIME VAN WERT WILL HONOR THE NAME OF  
J. S BRUMBACK — A LESSON WEALTHY MEN SHOULD LEARN  
AND PROFIT BY

Architect D. L. Stine is working on the plans for the Brumback Memorial Library to be erected in Van Wert. What a blessing it would be to future generations if there were more men of means of the same stamp as the deceased Van Wert citizen who, in building a public library, is erecting a monument to himself far more lasting than the average wealthy man generally constructs.—*Toledo Courier*, Sept. 25, 1898.

1899

COUNTY LIBRARY BUILDING — EDITORS — AND — GREATLY  
ALARMED OVER THE FACT THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO HELP  
MAINTAIN THE SAME

Ever since it has been known that a handsome donation of a County Library building costing \$40,000 or more, furnished and equipped with over 2,000 books to start with, has been made to the county of Van Wert by the late Hon. J. S. Brumback on the one condition that the tax-payers of the county through their representatives pledge themselves to maintain

the same as a County Library; and notwithstanding the fact that the press of the county, with two exceptions, has urged the acceptance of the generous proposition and that some of the heaviest tax-payers from various parts of the county have taken it upon themselves to advise the Commissioners to enter into a contract without delay, still Editor —— and Editor —— have been greatly troubled in the matter. The only real cry they have is that the building will not be established in —— or —— and their taxes will be increased.

The additional tax to the average tax-payer to be levied for library purposes will hardly be felt. In accordance with the general law passed by the last legislature it cannot exceed in any one year fifty cents on a \$1,000 valuation, and after the first year probably about two and one-half cents on a hundred will be sufficient.

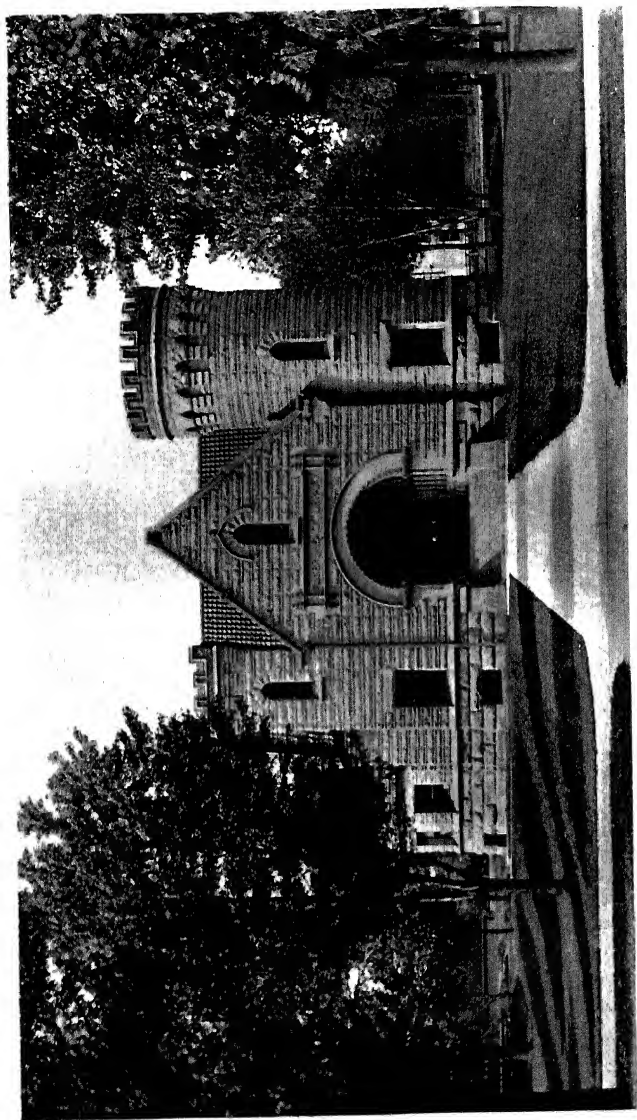
—— and —— are both on the tax duplicate for a little less than \$750 real and personal, so together they will be called upon to pay once a year the enormous sum of thirty-seven and one-half cents in order to enable every boy and girl in Van Wert County to have access to the best books published, an opportunity to visit and spend a part of their early days with the great literary men of the past and present.

Just think of it, is it not awful? The County Commissioners listened to the requests of those who pay annually into the county treasury thousands of dollars in taxes, and never consulted these two august pencil pushers.—*Van Wert Republican*, Feb. 2, 1899.

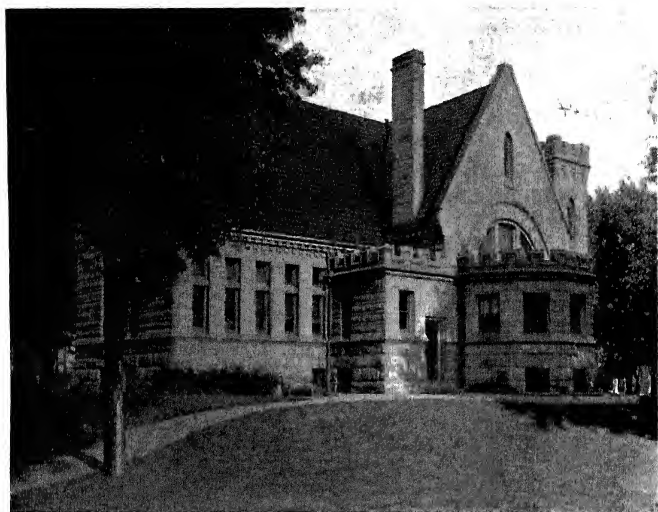
#### HIS BURDEN — WHY A VERY BUSY MAN OPPOSES TAXATION FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY

The Brumback Library, finished and thoroughly equipped, is a free gift to Van Wert County. The county has accepted the gift and in return has agreed to pay the expense of managing and operating it. This is a mere bagatelle. To meet this obligation a tax of fifty cents on each thousand dollars of valuation has been levied in this county.

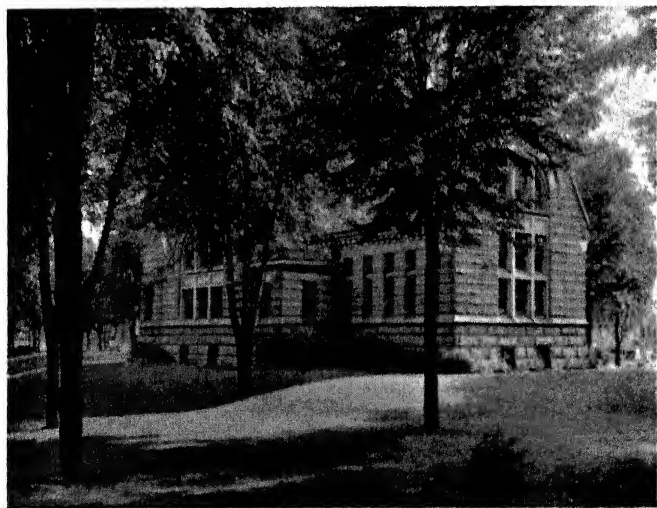
This tax is opposed in some — not many — localities. A few object to a tax to educate the masses. One of the busiest, noisiest opponents of the library tax is a small politician in one of the villages of this county. He never saw a library, but that makes no difference, he is opposed to libraries on general principles.



THE CRUMBACK LIBRARY OF VAN WERT COUNTY



THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY



THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY

The books in the county auditor's office show that this man's library tax will be seven and one-half cents a year. This is his burden. He will spend all his idle hours, and these are many, opposing this levy. It is more than he is willing to pay for books. A circus is cheap at fifty cents, but a library is an assault on our liberties at seven and one-half cents. And all this money appropriated for books without the consent of the governed. Has an American citizen, educated in the free schools of his country, no rights?

Call out the "Hoss Marines." — *Van Wert Bulletin*, Feb. 18, 1899.

BRUMBACK LIBRARY — A MAGNIFICENT FIREPROOF BUILDING —  
PLANS ENLARGED AND IMPROVED — MANY PLEASING FEATURES ADDED — J. S. ZOOK AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR THE BUILDING

The heirs of the estate of the late J. S. Brumback have been holding meetings this week for the purpose of letting contracts for the erection of the Brumback Library. All the heirs live in Van Wert, with the exception of Hon. O. S. Brumback, of Toledo, and he has been here all week. The new plans, which are an improvement on those made some time ago, have been drawn at Toledo, under his supervision and with his advice. The heirs are not sparing time or expense to make the building a credit to Van Wert County as *the first to establish a county library* and worthy of him in whose honor it is built.

A contract for erecting the building proper has been awarded to Mr. J. S. Zook of this town, and this is a guarantee in advance that the work will be well done. Mr. Zook's contract does not include tile roofing, steam heating and ornamentation. Work will be commenced as soon as the weather will permit.

A gentleman capable of judging the plans says the building will be so substantially constructed that it will last a thousand years. — *Van Wert Bulletin*, March 30, 1899.



## CHAPTER V

### THE LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE

AN IMPORTANT EVENT — THE LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE FOR THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY — A PROPOSITION TO ENTRUST THIS CEREMONY TO THE CARE OF VAN WERT LODGE 218, F. & A. M.

ONE of the most important events in the history of Van Wert County, an event which will mark material, social and educational advancement, will be the laying of the corner-stone of the Brumback Library. This should be an impressive ceremony — a lesson to the young, an evidence of the wisdom of all our citizens. It has, therefore, been requested that the ceremony be placed in the hands of Van Wert Lodge 218, F. and A. M. The time suggested is the Fourth of July, when the patriotism of all the people is given full sweep — when all meet unitedly around the flag of our country. This would be a fitting observance of the day, for a high purpose, under magnificent leadership.— *Van Wert Bulletin*, May 22, 1899.

CORNER-STONE LAYING — THIS NOTABLE CEREMONY FOR THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY TO OCCUR ON TUESDAY, JULY 18 — ALL SOCIETIES IN VAN WERT COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE

The time is set for the laying of the corner-stone of the Brumback Library. This important event will occur on Tuesday, July 18th. The proceedings will be conducted by the Masonic fraternity of Van Wert. Grand Master Nelson Williams, of Hamilton, Ohio, one of the most distinguished Masons in the United States, will preside as Master of Ceremonies. A committee of ten has been appointed to take charge of the arrangements. All citizens of Van Wert County are to be invited to be present and assist in making this an occasion worthy of this magnificent free offering to the educational advancement of this prosperous county.— *Van Wert Bulletin*, July 8, 1899.

A COUNTY DAY — CORNER-STONE LAYING OF THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY, TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1899, WILL BE A GALA DAY

If the weather is fair, next Tuesday will be a great day in the history of our beautiful city. All the secret orders of the county have been asked to participate in a great parade, which will be formed at one o'clock, and most of them already have shown their appreciation of the gift of the library by accepting the invitation.

It will be an unusual scene in Van Wert to see Odd Fellows, Cantons, Knights of Pythias, Maccabees, Red Men, Masons and all the other orders who can arrange to take part in the parade. All this will be enlivened by music from Hiestand's band, Convoy band, Harmony band and other bands. The great Venedocia Glee Club will furnish the vocal music for the occasion.

Will you miss this great day in Van Wert? It is a county affair. Let the people of the county come out and join in the celebration.—*Van Wert Republican*, July 13, 1899.

The corner-stone laying of the Brumback Library is an event which interests every citizen of Van Wert County. It celebrates a magnificent gift to education and progress. It is the first public recognition of one of the greatest benefits ever bestowed upon the town and county of Van Wert, in which all citizens have an equal interest.

The Brumback Library will be a home to all citizens of this county who take an interest in books and literature. The young man who visits Van Wert will no longer be compelled to spend his spare moments loitering in a store, grocery, in a saloon, or on a store box. The library will be open to all, where they may read books or papers. This feature alone should commend the library to every good citizen of this county.

The benefits from an educational standpoint are without number. A department will be established for books of reference and for works on higher education. In addition to these the best popular literature of the day, the works of the best authors of all ages, the standard works on mechanical science, etc., will be procured.

The greatest crowd ever assembled in Van Wert is expected here Tuesday to celebrate the first step in the construction of

this storehouse of knowledge. Every citizen of the county is urged to show his appreciation of the library by giving to it his presence on this occasion.

All the following organizations of the county have been invited to participate in the corner-stone laying: the Masonic orders, the I. O. O. F. lodges, the Knights of Pythias lodges, the lodges of the Improved Order of Red Men, the Maccabee lodges, the G. A. R. posts, the Home Guard homes, the National Union lodges and the County Granges; the following organizations of Van Wert—the Modern Woodmen, the Ben Hur, the Royal Arcanum, the Modern Brotherhood of America, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Railroad Club, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; and also Company D, Ohio State Militia, Van Wert County officials, City officials, the Van Wert Board of Education, City Fire Department, the newspapers of the county, the ministers of the county, the Van Wert Ladies' Library Association, the Trustees of the Brumback Library and Hon. M. M. Agler, Representative of Van Wert County.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, July 13, 1899.

The Committee of Arrangements request all business houses in Van Wert to close their doors during the exercises of the corner-stone laying on Tuesday. Every citizen of this town and county should have the privilege of attending this important and impressive ceremony.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, July 15, 1899.

#### EVERYBODY DECORATE

It is expected that all business houses put on the national holiday dress, tomorrow, in honor of the Brumback Library corner-stone laying.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, July 17, 1899.

BRUMBACK LIBRARY—WITH BECOMING CEREMONIES MASONIC LODGE NO. 218 LAYS THE CORNER-STONE—SOCIETIES PARADE WITH MUSIC AND BANNERS—REPRESENTATIVES OF DIFFERENT TOWNS IN LINE—THE WHOLE COUNTY HERE

The corner-stone laying of the Brumback Library occurred today.

The weather is delightful—ideal. The town is in holiday attire and all citizens, of all creeds, are in line, giving evidence of their high appreciation of this temple, devoted to books and

literature, and of the open-handed generosity of the donor, and of his heirs now so faithfully carrying to a successful completion his plan for a public benefit in which all are to share alike.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, July 18, 1899.

IMPOSING CEREMONIES ATTEND THE LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE — SERVICES BEAUTIFUL AND IMPRESSIVE TO THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ASSEMBLED — MAGNIFICENT PARADE OF SECRET SOCIETIES AND CITIZENS — VAN WERT IN HOLIDAY ATTIRE — ELOQUENT SPEECHES BY REV. DR. A. J. FISH, HON. O. S. BRUMBACK AND GRAND MASTER NELSON WILLIAMS, OF HAMILTON

An eventful day for Van Wert County has come and gone. The corner-stone for the Brumback Library is in position and the ceremonies attending its laying were most imposing. The thousands of citizens of Van Wert County present felt a thrill of joy because they live within the borders of this progressive county, and because not only can they reap the benefit of this generous gift, but they can bequeath it to generations yet unborn.

Tuesday was a day never to be forgotten, a day of instruction and enjoyment. People from the country honored the occasion with their presence and visitors from neighboring towns were welcome guests. Van Wert citizens were glad to show their hospitality. Judged by the universal interest taken, the donor, the late J. S. Brumback, has enabled the light of wisdom and learning to burn with an increased luster.—*Van Wert Times*, July 21, 1899.

The program and addresses are taken from the several Van Wert papers.

The procession, which was the most impressive ever witnessed in Van Wert, soon after two o'clock, moved south on Washington Street, countermarching to Central Avenue, thence east to Walnut Street, thence north to Main, and west to the Park in the following order: Mounted Police, Convoy Band, County Officials, City Officials, Library Association and Trustees, Board of Education, Clergy, The Press, G. A. R., Harmony Band, Fraternal Orders, Hiestand's Band, Venedocia Glee Club, The Masons, Mounted Escort.

## PROGRAM OF EXERCISES

Music, Hiestand's Band.  
Prayer, Rev. J. A. Gordon.  
Oration, Rev. A. J. Fish, D. D.  
Music, Miss Alice Clark.  
Address, Hon. O. S. Brumback.  
Proclamation, Grand Marshal.  
Prayer, Grand Chaplain.  
Music, Hiestand's Band.  
Presentation and Acceptance of Silver Trowel.  
Masonic Ceremonies.  
Lowering of Stone Accompanied by Music.  
Music, Glee Club.  
Oration, Grand Master Nelson Williams.  
Benediction, Grand Chaplain.

## REV. J. A. GORDON'S PRAYER

O God, Most Wise, Most Merciful, we adore Thee for all Thy glory and for all Thy grace. Marvelous are Thy works, and in wisdom hast Thou made them all—the earth is full of Thy riches. We bless Thee that Thou hast made man in Thine own image and hast given him dominion over the creatures. Thou hast created him for knowledge, holiness and immortality. Thou hast implanted in him hungerings and thirstings after truth. Thou hast uplifted his thoughts to wander through eternity, to think Thy thoughts after Thee, to read the wisdom of God in Thy works and in Thy word. In the beginning Thou didst say, "Let there be light," and we thank Thee that by man's search for knowledge hidden treasures have been brought to light, and his life has been enlarged and ennobled. We bless Thee for this day; for the pioneers and early settlers whose toils and sacrifices have laid the foundations and built up this community, so that the lines are fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage.

We rejoice in this temple of knowledge whose corner-stone is laid today. We thank Thee for the noble generosity that gave it and for the wisdom and love that guide its progress. We praise Thee for all who have united their efforts to secure this noble end. We pray that this library may forever be a fountain of instruction and delight to the people; that as it

adorns this spot with its beauty, so its influences may adorn and bless their lives.

Yonder are the school, the church, the court of justice, and the buildings of commerce and trade; side by side let this new temple of the soul stand henceforth for the uplifting of the community in intelligence, refinement and all virtues. Here may the people come, the rich and the poor alike, and receive its benefits, and their children from generation to generation.

Grant, O Lord, that as a community we may be prospered in all things temporal and spiritual; that with all our getting we may get understanding; that we may increase in that true wisdom whose merchandise is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof better than much fine gold, whose ways are ways of pleasantness and whose paths are paths of peace. And may we ever have that fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom, and be that happy people whose God is the Lord. We humbly ask it in Christ's name, Amen.

#### DR. A. J. FISH'S ADDRESS

Dr. Fish first read an account of the organization of the Van Wert Ladies' Library Association in 1891. He also spoke of the efforts of the twelve faithful ladies, of the results accomplished by them, of the encouragement they received from Van Wert people and of the interest taken in their efforts by Mr. Brumback; after which he commenced his impressive address, first speaking of the various monuments erected by man, finally coming to the grandest of all — a library, saying:

Prominent among the works of men, as far back as we find letters, has been the founding of libraries. In ancient Assyria, in an age without printing presses, was a library of 10,000 distinct works. In old Egypt, there were hieroglyphic writings gathered into a library of 37,000 books, some of them running back 2,000 years before Christ. The Accadians had books on the sun, the moon, stars, comets, eclipses, the phases of Venus, and had the oldest code of laws known in the world. The great Alexandrian Library, in which Aristotle's works were preserved, contained 500,000 volumes. The Germans have gathered, at Munich, a library of more than a

million books. The Slavs, in the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg, have nearly a million and a quarter volumes. The English, in the library of the British Museum, have 3,000,000 volumes. The French, under the fostering care of such lovers of books as Charles V., Louis XII., Louis XIV., and the great Napoleon, built up the wonderful Bibliothèque Nationale, at Paris, with its 3,000,000 volumes, with annual additions of 50,000.

In our own country we have not been negligent or idle. We are young compared with the people I have named, but already we have libraries in nearly every prominent city. The Library of Congress at Washington has now over 400,000 volumes, and the Mercantile Library, of New York, over 200,000 volumes. In many of the smaller cities and towns also are libraries well worthy of mention, and our people are becoming ambitious to have a library in every county town of the country.

The benefits of a good library are many. When its doors are opened to the people it brings them in touch with the world of letters. They are made acquainted with the great questions which men and nations are discussing. They become familiar with the records of the past, and learn what has been done as mankind has been struggling to gain the control over all nature. They are brought in touch with the great men and women who have shone as stars in the human firmament, the heroes of every type who have been conquerors and masters in human achievement. They are enabled to keep abreast of the age in which they live, and to know of the advancement and improvement made in every sphere of effort. Agriculture is made interesting and farming becomes a delight. Architecture attracts attention and the cabin and storebox residences give way to homes with modern conveniences. Mechanics is no longer drudgery, but the field of the man of skilled hand. Science is no longer dull, but becomes brilliant with ideas which are absorbing in interest and helpful in all work.

I am not speaking of shelves of story books or books of humor, but of a well-chosen library, covering the entire field of thought: the highest fiction, the best history, the most eminent biographies, the sublimest science, the purest statesmanship, the mightiest human deeds, the grandest progress, the most notable discoveries, the most practical inventions, the

trend of civilization, and the mastery of races. Make the people acquainted with such things and you have lifted higher the standard of civilization.

The superb gift by a noble fellow-townsmen of this building, together with what he had so wisely planned, marks a new epoch in the history of our county. We are henceforth to make strides toward higher endeavor. We are to be counted with those who seek to avail themselves of the greatest helps in life's work. We are to take rank with the people who are seeking to open the doors where the secrets of nature are found, that these may be made to subserve our purposes. This library means a march forward along all lines, and a step upward by many of our people. It will inculcate equality among us. All our people, even the poorest, are to have the same privileges. It is the donor's gift to *all the people*. The poorest son of toil may have access as readily as the heir to a fortune; the boy eager for knowledge and having but few advantages as freely as the brightest student of the college. All are to be made welcome. The man who sleeps under the sod, and whose name you now revere, never meant anything less than this. There is to be no caste, or class preferences, but a recognition of the privileges of all. The doors are to stand wide open to the intellectually hungry from any point in the county and from every family therein. This library will shape the thought of many a young man and the trend of many a life.

There are no forces like facts well applied. He who has access to their storehouses and uses them cannot help but be better equipped for life and duty. There are no inspirations like the inspirations of facts, and he who helps inquiring minds to gain them blesses the world. Every dollar in this building is so much leverage lifting the thoughtful, ambitious and determined patron of the library to a nobler aim in life.

This library will furnish our country friends a place to wait and rest amid the best possible surroundings. By the table covered with the latest newspapers, the best magazines and the purest literature, they not only will be able to make a profitable use of their time but will be safe from a dozen snares. I cannot but think that the debasing influence of the saloon will lose its enticement for some who are drawn by the charm of what they find here. The hour, too, that would otherwise be wasted will be occupied with useful and



ennobling inquiry. This library will be a growing source of good. There are many gifts of the world's benevolent ones of which this cannot be said. He who builds a monument to a name builds that which today is all it will be a thousand years hence. But this library will increase its benefits and enlarge its circle of influence.

The donor has wisely made provisions by which continual additions are to be made and by which the purpose of the building is to be kept sacred during the years ahead. A century hence, it will have doubled its usefulness to the people of the county. He builds grandly who builds for the future, and he plans well who plans for the increase of good. Rising generations will bless him who in caring well for their ancestors has provided also for them and their descendants. His gift is like treasures of wealth put upon compound interest, the ultimate value of which is ever increasing in growing ratio.

Mr. Brumback gives more to the people than can ever come from them to him. To him comes a name widely known, long remembered and greatly loved. To him come some fame and passing glory. But to the people comes all that this library may become in the future. It will give a good name to our county. Our county will be honored throughout the state. Visitors will speak of it as the county with one of the finest library buildings in Ohio, if not in any state. The ridicule of "hoop-poles and mud" will become a thing of the past and a guerdon of praise will take its place.

The best class of people will seek homes in our town and county and become our new neighbors. There will come a good name to our citizenship. We shall have higher standing for all the qualities which command the regard and affection of our fellowmen elsewhere. A gentleman of Toledo said to me: "You must have a grand people in Van Wert County so to capture this liberal-hearted man that he was ready to sink his feelings of self for their good." Thus, while men look at the superb gift of the gracious donor they will see also the high character and worth of those upon whom the gift is bestowed. If he had given bread and clothing they would think of us as paupers, but in this gift they will see a people high in noble qualities, eminent character, enduring power and worthy confidence. We are ennobled by the gift.

People of Van Wert County: J. S. Brumback did this for

you. He built no monument for himself. He reared no shrine of hero worship that he should occupy. Whatever monument is raised to him must be builded in your hearts and in the hearts of your children. There and there alone can he live immortal. With you, and with you alone, will be the crowning. On one of the streets of Florence, Italy, there are statues of Dante, Giotto, Petrarch, Boccaccio and Angelo. These were all born within her gates and thus she honored their names. Let us neither by marble, bronze nor granite, but by perpetual regard and undying love, hold in our hearts the name and memory of him whom today we honor as we lay this corner-stone — J. S. Brumback.

#### HON. O. S. BRUMBACK'S ADDRESS

There are occasions in the affairs of men, of nations and of communities which mark epochs in their history. Today marks an epoch in the history of Van Wert County. Fifty years ago, this county was a primeval wilderness, inundated by waters that had no sufficient outlet. This beautiful park was formerly a swamp from the overflow of the neighboring stream, and even here where we now stand I have in my own boyhood days fished in summer waters and skated in winter on unyielding ice.

It has only been by years of tireless toil and unremitting industry that Van Wert County has been redeemed from swamp and beast and forest, until it has become the garden spot of Ohio. When the genial summer sun kisses her loamy soil and "the tears of Nature" fall upon her fertile fields —

"Every clod feels a stir of might,  
An instinct within it that reaches and towers,  
And groping blindly above it for light,  
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers."

In accomplishing such a metamorphosis in the face of nature, with all the privations consequent upon such a work, the mass of the people have had but scanty opportunity for higher education. The school houses which dot the townships, and the church spires towering amid the groves and meadows, all give proof that the people of Van Wert County have been awake to the need of early education tempered with righteousness. But it is reserved for today to inaugurate an era of

the broadest education and the wisest culture for *all the people*.

In laying the corner-stone of this library, we are taking steps to place the knowledge and wisdom of all the ages within the reach of the humblest citizen and his children.

Edward Everett said: "It is our common schools which give the key of knowledge to the mass of the people. Our common schools are important in the same way as the common air, the common rain, the common sunshine, invaluable for their commonness."

Carrying forward this beautiful analogy, we may well add — It is our public libraries that form the repositories of knowledge, ready for the application of the key of knowledge. Our public libraries are important in the same way as the public parks, the public highways, the public government, invaluable for their publicity.

The common school system can only afford a preparatory education for the youth of our land. To utilize and make the most of that education is the work of a lifetime after leaving the public schools. And here is where the public library opens wide its doors to offer freely its treasures of learning.

When Abraham Lincoln was a poor country boy yearning for that higher education by which alone he could aspire to lead his fellowmen, his opportunities for acquiring knowledge were so limited, it is almost miraculous he persevered in his purpose until he became the Saviour of his country, the Emancipator of a race.

Alas, how many minds equally bright have become discouraged under such conditions and given up a higher education through lack of opportunity.

That the people of this county are willing to tax themselves for the growth and maintenance of a library speaks volumes for their intelligence. It shows they realize that just in proportion to the advantages offered will Van Wert County become a desirable place in which to live, and every acre of land and every piece of property thereby proportionately increase in value. It shows they realize that success in life comes not from accident, but from intelligent action based on the wisdom and experience of those who have lived before.

The public library gathers the books in which is stored this wealth of human knowledge; and there the people of every occupation, creed and profession can go to learn the best

method to accomplish the best results. It is not too much to say that under the inspiration of such a work, under the inspiration of such an institution, generation after generation will reap boundless benefit from the Brumback Library.

He whose name it bears was himself an example of what the poor country lad can accomplish by high aspirations and intelligent, faithful industry, aided by a good and faithful wife. He, himself, realized what it meant to be debarred from the higher education through lack of opportunity, and in the liberality of his generous heart, with a true philanthropy, he willed that Van Wert County boys and girls — the sons and daughters of his old friends and associates — should have opportunities second to none in the land. When that is accomplished John Sanford Brumback will not have lived in vain.

And when in the future, under the beneficent example of Van Wert County, *other counties in Ohio, yea, the counties of other states, shall have followed in our footsteps and laid corner-stones of county libraries*, to Van Wert County will belong the meed of praise as leader in a glorious work. Though young in years she will be foremost in achievement.

And when in the widening brotherhood of man, everyone shall feel he is his brother's keeper; when each shall know that all he is or can be he owes his fellowmen, and in return stands charged with a debt of gratitude only to be repaid by the happiness he secures for others; when all society realizes that by higher education, a better, nobler, broader civilization can be attained, in which the happiness of each is best secured by the happiness of all; then will come "peace on earth good will toward men." Then the era upon which we are now entering of *Humanity for Humanity* will have accomplished its full fruition, and the corner-stones of public libraries will not have been laid in vain.

" And each shall care for other,  
And each to each shall bend,  
To the poor a noble brother,  
To the good an equal friend."

Next followed the eloquent address of Grand Master Williams, which unfortunately cannot be given, and the impressive Masonic exercises connected with the laying of the corner-stone.

MORE INTERESTING FEATURES OF THE CORNER-STONE LAYING —  
LIST OF THE DEPOSITS IN THE CORNER-STONE

The citizens of Van Wert are a pleased people. The success attending the laying of the corner-stone of the Brumback Library building has brought them together as never before. Every public-spirited citizen feels that he has been personally benefited. There was an immense crowd of people present; the impressive ceremony conducted by the Masonic fraternity was magnificently carried out without a hitch; the long lines of societies and orders was a flattering compliment to good-fellowship; the music, the speeches and all the proceedings combined to make it one of the happiest events in the history of the city. Below is given a list of the deposits in the corner-stone.

History of first organization of the Van Wert Library Association, with photographs of members of the Association.

History of Brumback County Library, copy of donor's will, copy of contract with County Commissioners.

Photograph of J. S. Brumback.

Photographs of the wife and children of J. S. Brumback.

Photographs of Commissioners of Van Wert County.

Copy of *Van Wert Bulletin* of Dec. 18, 1897, containing announcement of contract of County Commissioners and Library Association with Brumback heirs.

Copy of *Van Wert Republican* of July 28, 1898, containing provisions of the will of J. S. Brumback.

History of organization of Van Wert County, Ohio, with list of first and present county officials.

History of organization of Van Wert City, first and present city officials.

History of Public Schools of Van Wert, first and present members of Board, superintendent, teachers, and roster of pupils.

History and organization of First Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Lutheran Church, First Christian Church, First Friends Church, First Evangelical Church and First Baptist Church.

History of the Masonic Order, the Knights of Pythias, the Improved Order of Red Men, the Knights of Maccabees, the Modern Brotherhood of America, Heistand's Band, Scott and Van Wert Posts, G. A. R., with charter and present members.

The press of Van Wert County: Van Wert Bulletin, Daily and Twice-a-Week, Van Wert Times, Van Wert Republican, Van Wert Democrat, Delphos Herald, Delphos Kleeblatt, Willshire Herald, Convoy Crescent, and Ohio City News.

Copy of City and County Directory.

Copy of the minutes of the Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, with a list of its officers and the speakers of this occasion.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, July 19, 1899.

#### APPRECIATIVE NEIGHBORS—UNBIASED COMMENT ON THE BRUMBACK CORNER-STONE CEREMONIES

The Delphos Herald says: "Van Wert was in her highest element Tuesday. It was right that she should be. Her people appreciate the great worth of so grand a gift to the progressive county town and made the occasion of the laying of the corner-stone of the Brumback Library a day to be remembered, a day of entertainment and enjoyment. The citizens of the rural territory and surrounding towns of Van Wert County were the honored guests. They were pleasingly entertained by the hospitable residents of the progressive county town.

"Van Wert is just entering a stage of progressiveness. Her nice, clean brick streets, her handsome residences and her pleasant-mannered citizens speak well for the city. The manner of conducting the imposing ceremonies in laying the corner-stone of the Brumback Library is another testimonial to the fact that the gift has been appreciated by her citizens. The library will be a fountain of useful information, open to each and every person, rich or poor, within the borders of Van Wert County, and the example set by the establishment of such a temple of learning places one of the youngest counties in Ohio in the highest rank educationally."—*Van Wert Bulletin*.

Van Wert is gaining additional prominence from the fact that the town will possess *the first county library building in Ohio, if not in the United States*.—*Celina (Ohio) Standard*.

Through the efforts of J. P. Reed, Jr., and the kindness of Senator M. A. Hanna and Congressman David Meekison, the Brumback Library has been made the designated depository of the Fifth Congressional District, and as such will receive from time to time all the important documents issued by the

U. S. Government. One consignment of some three hundred books arrived this morning. They are packed in sacks and came by registered mail.—*Van Wert Republican*.

1900

BRUMBACK LIBRARY NEARING COMPLETION — IT WILL PROBABLY  
BE OPENED IN JANUARY

The Brumback Memorial Library is nearing completion. In the last ten days the grounds surrounding the building have been graded and terraced. The steel stacks have been installed ready for the books. About 2700 new books are already here and are being catalogued as fast as possible. These together with the 1,800 volumes from the old library will make a very creditable beginning for Van Wert County's storehouse of knowledge. The building will not be opened until everything is in readiness for the patrons.

It is the purpose of the library trustees to establish branch libraries throughout the county at convenient points, where books and catalogues will be on hand, so that the country people will not be obliged to come to Van Wert for books.—*Van Wert Republican*, Nov. 15, 1900.

BRUMBACK LIBRARY — COMMENT BY STATE OFFICERS UPON THIS  
PRAISEWORTHY DONATION TO THE PUBLIC \*

"Ohio, in matters educational, is said to be a 'good follower.' If she succeeds in establishing and maintaining a county library in an agricultural section of the state, she will have made an innovation in this field. As far as is known, the Brumback Memorial Library is the first of its kind in this or any other state. The results will therefore be watched with deep interest by the friends of the library movement.

"There are many reasons why the county should be the unit and the county-seat a center of library interest and administration. A library located at the county capital should be made a depository for government publications, state and national. These should be preserved and kept for reference in at least one library of the county; and one such collection, if properly classified and arranged, would be sufficient. In time these documents in themselves would make a valuable

\* From the Fifty-fourth Annual Report of the Ohio State Library Commissioners.

reference library. At such a place could also be kept the more expensive reference works that are beyond the reach of small local libraries. Here may be collected files of county newspapers, manuscripts and printed material relating to the history of the county. Local historical societies, where such organizations exist, would willingly aid in building up such a department. In addition to all this, and what concerns us most so far as this report is concerned, such a library could be made a point from which traveling libraries could be distributed to different parts of the county. It is especially encouraging to note that the trustees of the Brumback Library contemplate beginning their work with a traveling library system that shall reach every postoffice within the county. The expense of transportation will be quite small, as the distance from the point of distribution will be comparatively short. In this respect the local traveling library will have an advantage over the state traveling library.

"The Brumback Library, we are reliably informed, will be able to provide for efficient administration and to add by purchase each year several thousand books. These, with government publications and volumes donated, will soon make a large library capable of supplying the demands of the county. It is needless to say that the schools, whether or not they become an active agency in the administration of the work, will be greatly benefited by the system. Under the efficient management of the non-partisan board with which Van Wert starts out on this notable and praiseworthy experiment, there is every reason to believe that it will be a complete success. We may reasonably hope that in other counties enlightened philanthropy may thus aid local educational interests and perpetuate itself in the grateful appreciation of succeeding generations."—*Van Wert Bulletin*, Nov. 22, 1900.

The *Ohio Educational Monthly*, published at Columbus, made similar comments.

The Brumback Memorial Library building at Van Wert is to be dedicated New Year's day. The structure is a very handsome one, and the citizens of the thriving city of Van Wert are justly proud of it.—*St. Marys (Ohio) Graphic*, December, 1900.

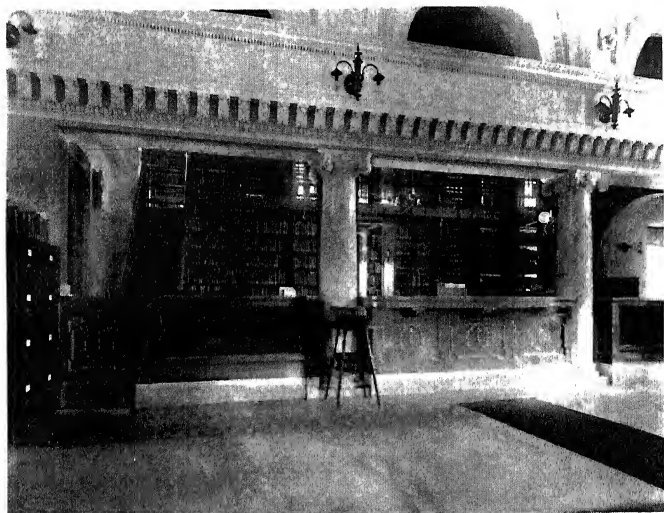


It has been very gratifying to our people to see Mr. Brumback's children, viz., Mrs. J. P. Reed, Jr., Mrs. E. I. Antrim, D. L. Brumback, President of the Van Wert National Bank, and Hon. O. S. Brumback, a prominent attorney of Toledo, all working so faithfully and unitedly to the end that the library building might be brought to a satisfactory completion. Such zeal and devotion merit the highest praise; by their deeds they have not only proved themselves truly heirs of a noble man, but they have also erected for themselves a monument which time cannot obliterate. With them, we may right here very properly speak of John P. Reed, Jr., who has had the supervision of nearly everything in connection with the building. He has worked early and late, and it is due in a measure to his ability and unceasing efforts that next Tuesday Van Wert County will be presented with one of the most substantial library structures in the state.—*Van Wert Republican*, Dec. 27, 1900.

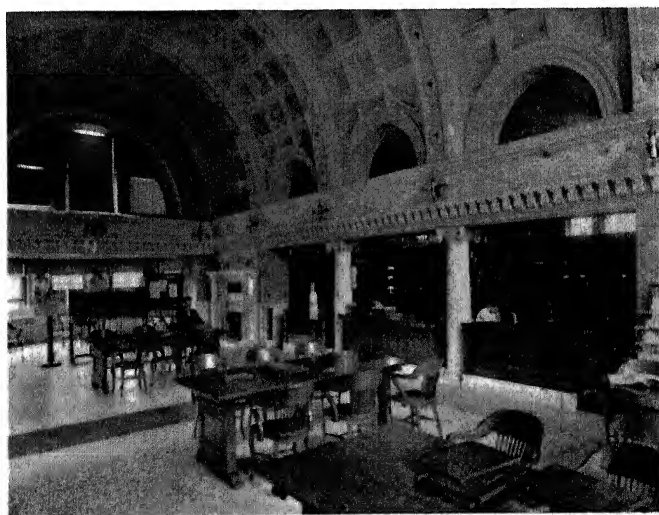
While the newspapers have often mentioned the fact that the building is erected and furnished throughout by the Brumback estate, occasionally we meet a man who thinks that part of the cost of construction was met by the tax-payers of Van Wert County. For the benefit of such persons we again say that the Brumback Library was erected and furnished complete at a cost to the Brumback estate of \$50,000 and contained 1,800 volumes before a single penny of the tax-payers' money was spent.—*Van Wert Republican*, Dec., 1900.

At the annual meeting of the Ohio Library Association recently held at Zanesville the first of the resolutions adopted reads as follows:

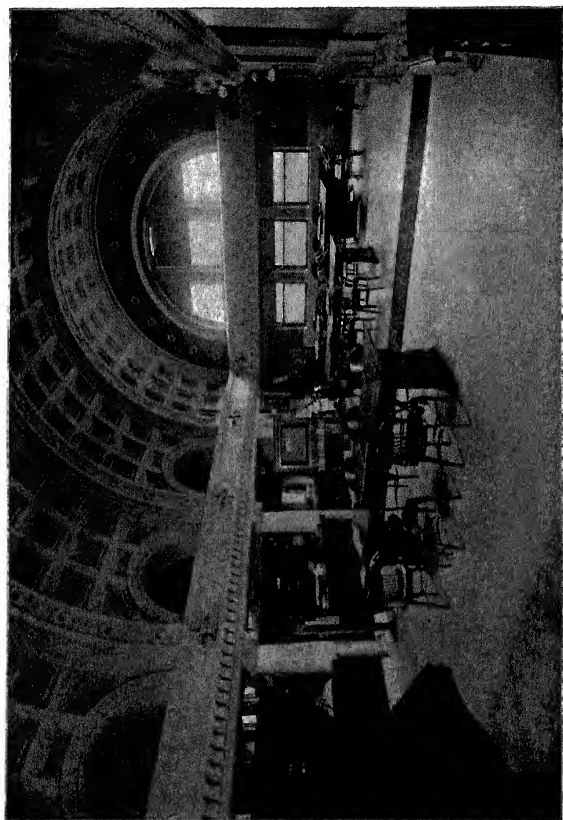
"Bequests for library purposes call forth perpetual gratitude from the living. We especially commend the liberal spirit of the late J. S. Brumback, who made provision in his will for the establishment of a free public library for Van Wert. We also commend the disinterested zeal of the heirs of his estate, and the wisdom of the commissioners of Van Wert County who have cooperated to carry out these provisions and make the bequest available for the people of the county. We trust that the work they have successfully inaugurated may be imitated elsewhere throughout the state."—*Van Wert Republican*, Dec., 1900.



THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY



THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY



THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY

## CHAPTER VI

### THE DEDICATION

THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY DEDICATION MARKS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE HISTORY OF VAN WERT COUNTY — EXERCISES TO BE HELD IN THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, VAN WERT, JAN. 1

THE crowning event in the history of the Brumback Library will take place at the First Methodist Episcopal Church, on New Year's Day, when appropriate dedicatory exercises will be held. It is altogether fitting and appropriate that these exercises should occur on the first day of the year, aye, the first day of the new century, for the completion of the library and its opening to the public mark an epoch in the history of Van Wert County of which we may justly feel proud. It is scarcely necessary in this article to give an account of the library or of the donor. All this has been done before by pens more able than ours. Van Wert is justly proud of J. S. Brumback, proud that he located here and proud of the great gift that made possible a library for Van Wert County.—*Van Wert Times*, Dec. 28, 1900.

The following is the order of the exercises :

Presiding Officer, Rev. J. A. Gordon.

Director of Music, Wm. H. Hiestand.

Music by Moebus' Orchestra and Hiestand's Band.

Music, National Hymn (Geo. W. Warren), Chorus and Orchestra.

Invocation, Rev. J. H. Fitzwater, D. D.

Music, Solo and Chorus, "Inflammatus," Rossini.

Address, Rev. P. P. Pope, D. D.

Music, Solo, Charles W. Clark, Chicago.

Address of Presentation, Hon. O. S. Brumback, Toledo.

Acceptance on behalf of Board of Trustees, Judge H. C. Glenn.

Music, Chorus and Orchestra, "Columbia," Dozitta.

Dedicatory Prayer, Rev. I. D. Worman.

Music, Solo, Charles W. Clark.

Address, Hon. C. B. Galbreath, Columbus, State Librarian and President National Association of State Librarians.

Music, Orchestra, Chorus and Audience, "America."

Benediction, Rev. D. B. Koenig.

#### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS OF REV. J. A. GORDON

I do not believe that in all the world there will be a celebration of the new year, or the new century, more significant and typical of the spirit of progress that marks the age than we are having here today. Here, where a hundred years ago was an unbroken wilderness, the home of savages and wild beasts, we dedicate today a temple of civilization and knowledge, noble in the spirit that prompted it, classic in its architectural beauty, and complete in all its appointments. As one who has been interested in the library from its inception and who participated in the corner-stone laying, I rejoice in this proud day for the people of Van Wert County. I have the honor to preside at the exercises this afternoon. We have a rich and varied program, and while it is somewhat lengthy, this is an event which will never occur again, and I am sure you will all give patient attention to the speakers.

The first institution of learning in this country was Harvard College, to which the Rev. John Harvard bequeathed one-half his estate and his library, and this was the foundation of the first public library in America. It is fitting, therefore, that a representative of the ministry address us on this occasion. We shall now hear from the Rev. P. P. Pope, D. D., pastor of this church.

#### REV. DR. P. P. POPE'S ADDRESS

We live in a book-making age. It is certainly true today, "of making many books there is no end." De Quincey, the great English essayist, calculated, half a century ago, that if a man should in early youth undertake to read the world's books and read every day the greatest number of pages his eyes could scan, and if he should live a hundred years in this exclusive occupation, his wearied eyes would cease their work in the first alcove of this immeasurable library; yet during the last half century the number of books has enormously

multiplied, so that today he would be further from the end of his task than he was at the beginning.

Approximately, all that has been written since the Christian era may be found in the vast libraries of France, England and other European countries. Accident, fire, age and the vandalism of rulers have destroyed innumerable volumes in the ancient past, but frequently works, thought destroyed, put in an appearance, and there is reason to hope that sooner or later most of the early literature of the world of special value will have been recovered.

A good book is a great boon, a source of inspiration. Some one has said that a drop of ink falling like dew upon a thought has made thousands, even millions, think. Milton says, "a good book is the precious blood of a master spirit embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond." In our day we might say it is often the electric charge stored up to enlighten and invigorate the minds of those who search its pages. Books have voices that speak; while mind is finite and progressive there can be no end of book-making; a boundless field is ever open for advancement and attainment.

What a mine of wealth there is in the world's literature. How large a part it plays in the enlightenment and education of the race. Books like the Bible are priceless. Masterpieces of human product, like Shakespeare, gold could not buy. They are the most substantial wealth of their generation; the most enduring monuments of the ages; products of mind that have made mortals immortal. "Wisdom is preferred to silver" and "gold is dross compared to her;" "more precious is she than rubies."

But there are books and books. Books that are fit only for the waste basket. Books that have blasted the paper on which they were printed and are fit only to be consumed by fire.

The object of the public library is twofold. To place within reach of all the best literature of the centuries. To bring from every department of thought all the best and most useful books of the day.

January 1, 1901, is an auspicious day for the citizens of the city and county of Van Wert. The Brumback Library, which we meet to dedicate, is a worthy monument of the affectionate regard of the donor for the people among whom he lived. It is a mark of liberality and great wisdom.

Its value and advantages cannot be too highly estimated. A great private library is a rare luxury. The country has but few. Of public libraries containing more than one thousand volumes there are but four thousand in all the land. Northwestern Ohio can boast of only four library buildings. With this monumental building, excelled by none outside of the chief cities and universities, and with the excellent library already on its shelves, the county is to be congratulated.

The average public library has a very uncertain existence. If it has no permanent home it usually flourishes a while, then languishes or dies. The bequest of Mr. Brumback has made this library sure and permanent.

A prophetic glance across a century let us take this New Year's day, the first day of what may be a millennial century. It will warrant the belief that thousands of volumes will fill the shelves of the Brumback Library at the century's close. Our friends have built larger than they knew. Well may it be so, "for education is the chief defense of nations." Fellow-citizens of Van Wert County, what a privilege is ours.

Only one book in ten thousand contains anything new in the realm of thought or imagination. Genuine creations of the mind are very few. The poet Emerson suggested that when his writings had been subjected to the sifting process of time but five lines would remain. He was doubtless correct. Already it will be our privilege at the opening of this library to find the great books of the great minds of all the centuries. No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor is any pleasure as enduring. "There is," says Bulwer, "no past so long as books shall live." Use your opportunity, a golden moment daily will make itself felt in a year. Said a thinker pointing to a library of great books, "I read the books on those shelves at the rate of three pages a day."

Groups of ragged newsboys gather around the tables in the palace halls of the Carnegie Library at Pittsburgh, their faces lighted with the light of the literature they devour. They are citizens incubating. The moulding of these lies within the province of the public library. May it bear precious fruit for the twentieth century in the city and county of Van Wert, as from every hamlet, township and village of the county the people come for light and knowledge, and may it cement them into a noble fellowship.

PRESENTATION ADDRESS BY HON. O. S. BRUMBACK OF TOLEDO,  
OHIO

Men may come and men may go, but their thoughts inscribed in books go on forever. Books afford the true transmigration of souls, since in them the minds of men live on long after their bodies have returned to dust. A library is a mausoleum of the souls of great men and women who have lived on earth, and the open doors of a public library are a standing invitation to enter and become acquainted with them. He who accepts the invitation should tread lightly and with awe, for there the learning of the ages awaits his call. The scintillating wit, the flights of eloquence and the rhythmic pathos of the human race there surround him; and there the hopes and fears, the sorrow and joys, the failures and successes of mankind for centuries are portrayed to him who reads.

The pleasure, the satisfaction, the profit that books afford cannot be overstated. Do you desire to ponder over the glorious achievements of men? Gibbon, Macaulay, Bancroft and all the rest will detail with faithful accuracy the history of the past. Do you desire to revel in imaginary scenes of human life? Dickens, Scott, Thackeray, Cooper and hundreds of others will lead you through scenes and bring you face to face with characters, so true to life, that you forget it is all a fiction of the brain. Do you desire to wander through Elysian fields where poesy lulls the senses into sweet content? Then Shakespeare, Byron, Tennyson, Bryant, Longfellow or other of the hundred bards will carry you away on the wings of ecstasy, until with Wordsworth you feel —

For ever something is or seems,  
That touches us with mystic gleams  
Like glimpses of forgotten dreams.

Long days become as hours, and dull hours fly unnoticed, when rapture thrills the heart, and the weary brain forgets its tribulations in the entrancement of a good author.

Assembled as we are today, to dedicate a temple to literature, the mind spontaneously recurs to all that books are to man.

After printing was invented, books at first were to be found only in the convents of mediaeval times, ponderous



in size and crude in form. Learning was then confined to the priesthood, few among the people could read, and inability to write, even among the nobility, caused the use of a signet seal.

From the convents, books gradually came into the hands of the people, until at the time of the Colonial Period in America most families had one or more books, commonly a Bible and a few others. Books being so precious, favored was he who had access to a few volumes, and happy was the one who had a small library at his command. Because of the scarcity and value of books, no one was able to acquire a library of much magnitude, and from the very necessity of the situation, following the Colonial Period, came the Institutional Period, from about 1638 to 1731, when libraries were to be found in Harvard, Princeton, Yale and other early colleges.

In 1731 began a Cooperative Period, in which men and families clubbed together in cities and villages to form libraries of their own. This lasted until 1854, when the Free Public Library Period was inaugurated by Boston opening a library free to all who sought admission. From Boston, libraries have spread over the country, until today nearly every city of note in the United States, and many villages as well, have their free public libraries to promote education and intellectual growth.

The remarkable spread of knowledge in the United States is directly ascribable to these public libraries, acting in conjunction with the public schools. The wonder of Europe is the amazing progress of the United States, accomplished by enterprise, inventive genius and intellectual superiority. And yet those are but the product of our schools and libraries, sending forth inventors, poets, authors, statesmen, jurists and divines.

A boy of humble parentage comes out of our public schools, he applies himself assiduously to master the books free at hand, and lo, a Lincoln, a Beecher, a Blaine, a Morse, or an Edison lives to elevate and glorify the race.

Or perhaps a boy after leaving the public school goes to work at a bench in a factory, or upon a farm, or enters upon a business career; with a library at hand and wise use of his time he grows in knowledge, his wisdom sheds its light upon his fellowmen, and his fraternal spirit warms all with whom

he comes in contact. Honest, faithful and true to all the duties of life, he may remain a quiet, unobtrusive citizen, content to fill a humble sphere in life. It is such as these that make up American citizenship. It is such as these that form the anchor and stay of American institutions.

John Sherman wrote to a young man: "Learn to love your books, for there is pleasure, friendship and instruction in books."

The public library instills a love for books by creating a taste for reading and a taste for reading is a taste of paradise. Happy indeed is he who can say from his heart:

My books are friends whose cheerful greeting  
Delights my heart with each new meeting;  
With them I take the greatest pleasure;  
Enjoy their wit in fullest measure.  
When e'er I feel the need, or yearning  
For knowledge, wisdom, counsel, learning,  
I steal away to quiet nooks  
To interview my faithful books.\*

Every citizen—even the humblest—can enter the *public* library with a sense of ownership, for it is maintained by his own contribution with that of others. He feels that he is at home and entitled to share the privileges which surround him. The people of a community animated by such a spirit soon become a reading community, and a reading community soon becomes an educated community.

In 1893 some of the prominent ladies of Van Wert, realizing the great good to be derived from a library free to all who would aid in the enterprise, incorporated The Van Wert Library Association. Without books or money, except such as they could hope to secure from donations, the prospect of success was anything but flattering. But nothing daunted the ladies entered vigorously upon the work. They canvassed the town for subscriptions and gave entertainments in aid of the project until a nucleus of a circulating library was formed. Any person who contributed three dollars each year was permitted to share in the use of the library. So heartily were they encouraged in the work and so enthusiastic and persevering were they in their efforts, that at the end of a year or so

\* Original with the speaker.

they had a collection of 600 books, placed in charge of a lady librarian in a general reading-room rented by the Association for library purposes. The annual dues paid by the patrons of the library were only sufficient to pay the running expenses, leaving but scant means to add new books. Notwithstanding many and varied discouragements, the ladies persevered in their good work until the library became so generally appreciated that in 1896 the Common Council of Van Wert voted a tax of three-tenths of a mill in aid of the library; realizing about \$575 annually for that purpose. This served to pay running expenses and together with the money realized from the dues of patrons furnished a small income upon which the library could be maintained.

The field for the work was, however, so large and the means so inadequate and the future was so dependent upon constant and unremitting effort, that the ladies, although justly proud of what had been accomplished, might well feel apprehensive for the future when their personal efforts should cease. A like library established some years before had finally gone into bankruptcy, and it was only too apparent that this also might fail if not placed upon a firm and enduring foundation.

It was at this stage that the will of John Sanford Brumback was made public, providing for the gift to the people of Van Wert County of a splendid building in which forever to maintain a free public library by the following clause in the will:

"It is my will and desire that my said dear wife and children expend sufficient of my estate willed to them in items one and two to carry out my wishes known to them by the erection and gift of a library building, something after the plans and designs I have prepared for that purpose; provided, and this item is upon the express condition, that my said wife and children can make arrangements satisfactory to them with the city of Van Wert, or if they desire and think best, with Van Wert County, for a location for said building and the maintenance of the library to be placed therein."

Before going on to what has been accomplished under this provision, let us take a cursory view of the life of the man who made possible the firm establishment of a public library in Van Wert County to bless present and future generations.

[The biography here omitted is embodied in the first chapter].

Had J. S. Brumback received a liberal education, such as

most boys receive nowadays, there is no station in life his natural ability, industrious habits and moral worth would not have eminently fitted him to fill.

It was never said of J. S. Brumback that he was otherwise than perfectly fair, honest and just in every business transaction. No man ever acquired wealth and position in a community without arousing the jealousy of some less fortunate. And yet, although J. S. Brumback did business in Van Wert for over thirty-five years, first in the dry-goods business and then as a banker, never was he accused of making a dollar dishonestly. He was shrewd, far-seeing, and expected every man to fulfill his contracts, but unjust and oppressive — never.

His heart was tender as a child's; his sympathy went out to the needy and distressed. And many in Van Wert County will bear me witness that when J. S. Brumback had it in his power to profit by their misfortunes, he did not do so, but, instead, helped them out of trouble at no small cost of money, time and effort.

His judgment was so wise and his perception so unerring, that his opinion was constantly sought by people in all walks of life. No one appealed to him in vain for assistance in a righteous cause; whether it was alms to the poor, aid to his relations, encouragement to the downhearted, succor to the unfortunate, or a donation for the public good, he always gave freely when merit demanded. In short, in the words of Shakespeare:

His life was gentle; and the elements  
So mixed in him, that nature might stand up  
And say to all the world — THIS WAS A MAN.

Such a man, with such a heart full of philanthropy, could not die without remembering his fellowmen, if it could be accomplished in justice to his own family, toward whom he recognized his first duty. So when he came to draw his will, he did not conceal what he had in mind and secretly consult a lawyer, but openly, as he had lived, he called his family around him and freely expressed his thoughts. He said he had long felt like doing something for Van Wert, and that he knew of no way in which so much good could come to his old friends and associates and their children, as through a public library. He said:

"I would like firmly to establish for them such an institution,

if you are all willing. If any of you feel I ought not to do so, I will dismiss it from my thoughts."

It is sufficient to say that in the discussion which followed the vote was unanimous. But even then, when I was drawing the will, he said:

"I want you to draw it so as to make it entirely optional. If hereafter any of my heirs should not be satisfied to carry out my wish, I want it so that it will not be obligatory."

And so the will was drawn; and under it the magnificent steel and stone fireproof building has been constructed for "The Brumback Library," on the condition made by the heirs that it be forever maintained by Van Wert County under that name, in honor of the donor.

The unanimity with which the heirs have carried out the wish expressed in the will bears testimony to the affection and veneration felt for the husband and father. What a glorious life to live, and be thus remembered. Had J. S. Brumback spent his life in a sordid pursuit of wealth, he could have accumulated a much larger fortune. Instead, he wisely chose to make good use of his money as he went along. Liberal, but modest in his mode of life, he educated his children and aided them to become established in life, and when he passed away they could not but feel that they in turn owed him a debt of gratitude that never could be repaid.

"Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul; and the heart of man knoweth none more fragrant."

One thing to be especially noted in the will is the provision for a county library. The suggestion was a noble conception, full of great possibilities. Up to the date of this will, no thought apparently had ever been directed to the establishment of a library owned and maintained by a county.

The population of our cities and towns are less in need of the advantages of a free public library than are the rural communities, since books in the centers of population are readily accessible and pass from hand to hand by loan and exchange. Not so in the country, where people are widely separated and books not so plentiful on the family shelves.

There is a great yearning among the youth of the country districts for more of the opportunities and pleasures that go to make up life in the twentieth century, causing a great drift to the cities and towns, to the detriment of the national

welfare. If the farms are to be kept populated, rural life must be made attractive, and opportunity must there be afforded to enjoy the pleasures of literature and to enter the world of knowledge.

When it was first proposed to make the Brumback Library a county institution, many looked askance and could hardly believe it practicable. Some of the residents in different parts of the county have thought such a library could be of but little or no advantage to them. They little realized how books are now being circulated in our great cities many miles from the central library; and there is no reason why they cannot be had almost as freely in distant parts of the county as in the county-seat itself. The only need is the books themselves, and they will surely be acquired in a few years in sufficient number to supply the whole county. Under a sub-station or branch library system, books will be sent to stations in distant localities, there to be called for and returned when read. Ready means for their transfer is afforded in this day of constant communication and transportation facilities.

Of course, the inauguration of a county library was not accomplished without much effort and many discouragements. When I drew a bill to be presented to the Ohio Legislature, to permit the county commissioners to bind the county to maintain a library by taxation, I believed its passage could only be secured by the most strenuous efforts. When, however, the farmers of Van Wert County assembled in their granges, and after full discussion declared almost unanimously in favor of such a library, I knew their voice must be heeded and their intelligence receive the reward of success. By the assistance of leading citizens both in town and county the bill became a law, and later the county commissioners took the necessary action under the law to execute a tripartite agreement with the Ladies' Library Association and the heirs of J. S. Brumback.

By the terms of that contract, the Ladies' Library Association turned over to the Brumback Library all the books — some 1,800 in number — belonging to the Association; the county agreed forever to maintain the library by the levy of an annual tax upon all the taxable property of the county; and the Brumback heirs agreed to construct, and furnish complete and ready for use, a stone building in one of the parks of the city of Van Wert, the county-seat of the county,

wherein the library might have a home, and its influence be extended in ever widening circles.

How well the heirs have much more than fulfilled the terms of the contract, let the splendid building and the furnishings—substantial, commodious and beautiful in every detail—speak. It is sufficient to say that no expense has been spared to make it the best. From the solid stone walls three feet thick, to the steel truss tile-covered roofs, stability and grace have been sought. Upon entering the arched portal and obtaining a view of the commodious rooms, lofty arched and panelled ceilings, mosaic floors, marble mantel and wainscoting, polished oak woodwork and furniture, with space for 40,000 books and more—it certainly must be said that Van Wert County is indeed fortunate in having had J. S. Brumback live within its borders.

Since it was thought that the ladies would exercise a most beneficent influence in the management and work of the Brumback Library, and to keep it out of political broils as much as possible, the tripartite agreement provides that the library shall be managed by a non-partisan board of seven trustees; three to be appointed by the county commissioners, two by the Ladies' Library Association and two by the Brumback heirs. Their term of office is for three years, and in case any appointment is not made by the parties designated, the city council of Van Wert is to make the appointment.

It will thus be seen that the governing body of the library is selected by various interests, and the best qualified persons for such a work will, in all probability, be secured.

The income of the library under the tax levy now produces nearly \$5,000 per annum. Twice this sum could well be utilized. Under the new decennial valuation of property, this amount will be substantially increased. Only lack of means will prevent the library from at once entering upon its full usefulness. To fill the demands of the whole county under the sub-station or branch library system a large library is necessary, and the fear is, that in the beginning the supply will not be equal to the demand. If, however, the people will be tolerant, a few years ought to suffice to accumulate an extensive and valuable collection of books, embracing all departments of literature.

When the people once realize how much good is to be had from the few cents collected from each for the library, it is

believed a strong sentiment will grow up to increase the levy until a sum can be had adequate to meet all demands. It is certainly better that people should tax themselves for libraries and schools, rather than for almshouses, jails and other asylums of misery.

*As the first to inaugurate a county library, Van Wert County owes it to herself and the world to see that it is made a complete success. I doubt not that, with such an example, other counties in Ohio will soon take up the work and that the system will extend to other states, until the results accomplished will be tremendous.*

The prominence Van Wert County will receive as the pioneer in such a work cannot but be a proud distinction, and of the greatest benefit to all her people. After the bill was drafted for the benefit of the Brumback Library of Van Wert County, Cincinnati took up the cue and procured the enactment of a law extending the field of her library work to all of Hamilton County. Toledo and other localities are considering the same action.

The demands of the time are for greater literary advantages, and fuller opportunities to learn all the wonders of science and the achievements of the past.

Give the people full opportunity for mental culture and free access to the world of books, and they will not be slow to wander with Proctor into the realm of space, to learn the wondrous stories of suns that glow, and systems that circle there; or to go with Laplace to other worlds to hear how ages since the rock-ribbed hills and ancient sea were but a fiery cloud, a morning mist of creation. They will quickly understand how Cuvier finds a bone and builds the mammoth to which it belongs, and reads the hoary rocks which tell of primeval seas and towering forests. With Carlyle they will pass through the terrible scenes of the French Revolution; and from John Stuart Mill soon learn the true relation of economy and thrift to supply and demand. Who can doubt that wisdom, good judgment and wise action must result from such instruction?

Prosperity and success have ever attended upon intelligence. And so it is that the elevation and advancement of the whole race to the higher planes of social development and fraternal brotherhood is along the road of a wider dissemination of knowledge. Nor is the field of human effort by any means exhausted. Indeed, it is scarcely entered upon. Vast fields



of learning yet unexplored, and heights of intellectual attainment beyond belief, await those who attempt them.

Great problems yet remain to be solved, the greatest indeed that have ever confronted mankind. The true relation of capital and labor, the proper union of diversified interests, the economical administration of public affairs and many others of equal importance. In short, all the great questions that arise as population increases and the human race strives to attain the greatest good for the greatest number must be determined, and determined rightly. In these great controversies, destined to test the stability of human institutions, the wisdom drawn from the whole past experience of mankind can alone lead the race aright.

The people of the great Middle West have in the past been chiefly occupied in developing their material resources. The time is come when they are to devote more attention to literary and scientific pursuits. That intellectual giants will be forthcoming cannot be doubted, and they will be the product of just such institutions as the Brumback Library.

The libraries of a community are the foster-mothers of intellectual prominence. Many of the foremost statesmen, historians, poets and orators of America have been Massachusetts men—the product of a state that boasts the great libraries of Cambridge and Boston, and where nearly every village has a public library. Bancroft, Prescott, Motley, Parkman, and Fiske, as historians; Bryant, Longfellow, Lowell, Holmes, Emerson, and Whittier, as poets; Winthrop, Choate, Everett, Sumner, and Wendell Phillips, as orators, have brought imperishable fame to themselves and the Old Bay State. Ohio has already taken rank as a mother of presidents. Her sons are yet to attain still higher pinnacles of success, and surprise the world with their versatile genius.

In opening a library designed to aid in these great accomplishments, we are starting upon its career an educational institution whose silent but wholesome influence will extend through all the future. When we think of the character the Brumback Library will mould, the pleasure it will give, and the knowledge it will spread, we cannot but realize this is indeed a momentous occasion. As said by Senator Hoar of Massachusetts:

The opening of a library is an event of the highest importance in any community. It is one of the institutions which tend to build

up and adorn the local life. There is no city so great and renowned that it does not wear its library as the chief jewel of its crown. There is no town so humble that a good library will not raise it to distinction and honor. However excellent may be their schools, however admirable the training that the children get at home, the community where there is no good library is but half-educated.

What considerate man can weigh the dollars it will cost to maintain the library against the immortal minds it will train. One youth kept from a dissolute and vicious life by the charms of literature supplied from its shelves will more than repay the expense of years. God has implanted his divine essence in the mind of man to be trained and educated for good citizenship on earth, and immortality hereafter. This library, engaged in broadening and ennobling the mind of man, will kindle a flame, "which will shine not merely when every artificial beam is extinguished, but when the affrighted sun has fled away from the heavens."

Today we enter upon a new century. Today mankind all over the world is contemplating the past and standing tiptoe to peer into the future. Surpassing day, transcendent day. All living millions will never see its like again.

Upon this natal day of the Twentieth Century, while loving congratulations are echoing around the globe, on behalf of John Sanford Brumback, now gone beyond the stars, but whose spirit hovers near; on behalf of his wife and children, who have striven as best they knew to carry out the will of him they loved, I, now and here, present to the Trustees of the Brumback Library, acting on behalf of all the people, this building, wherein it hath been covenanted forever to maintain a free public library.

And may every man, woman and child in Van Wert County reap the benefit to be obtained by delving into the mysteries upon its shelves, and their descendants in turn drink deep at the "Pierian Spring."

ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE BY JUDGE H. C. GLENN

With uncovered head I make my most gracious bow to Mrs. Brumback and her family. While I address them I also address the ladies and gentlemen present.

I have never received a summons to duty which I obeyed with such supreme pleasure as the present one, of accepting

from this family, in the name of the Trustees of the Library and in behalf of the citizens of Van Wert County, yonder well-proportioned and exquisitely finished and furnished library building. The little library of yesterday which has grown to be one of considerable proportion, has a warm place in my memory. I remember so well the time when, and by whom, was first conceived the plan by which it was hoped to provide for the people of Van Wert a free public library. I, also, well remember the dozen true and philanthropic women who organized themselves into a society to promote this plan. The plan succeeded, but would not have done so had not the city provided through taxation for the support of the library.

I have always thought that the fate of the enterprise was determined, and that success became assured, at our own home. An entertainment had been arranged by the ladies for the benefit of the library fund. Everybody was invited and nearly everybody came. The children came with their pennies and nickles and dimes; the grown people came bringing their quarters, their halves and their dollars; but the acme of success was reached when it was ascertained that Mrs. G. H. Marsh had sent her check for a generous sum and that Mr. J. S. Brumback had brought his check for fifty dollars.

It is also my good pleasure to know something of the history of this library building. Aside from his own family, Mrs. Glenn and I were the first persons to whom Mr. Brumback communicated his purpose of erecting a library building and of donating the same to the public. It was not his original idea to make this a post-mortem gift. When we talked with him, he had a hope that he might so far recover his health as to be physically able to look after the erection of the building himself, and with his own hand turn it over to the public. This idea had progressed so far that he had plans prepared by an architect, which I understand to be the same plans, in the main, after which the building has been constructed—changed and added to only so far as modern architects' experience and good taste, convenience and utility have suggested. His hope of recovery was only a hope. He informed us that he had talked the matter over with his family, who heartily acquiesced, so that whether he recovered or not the library would be a fixed fact, unless conditions should exist rendering the same impracticable.

My friend, Mr. O. S. Brumback, in his presentation ad-

dress, referred to one point which I wish to emphasize as a matter of justice to the living. It is this: this building has not been erected in pursuance of any mandatory provisions of Mr. Brumback's will. There is no such provision in his will. Every reference to the library is in the form of a request or wish on the testator's part. I am satisfied, however, that there would have been such mandatory provision had he not been entirely satisfied that the same was unnecessary. Any objections, or rather failure to concur on the part of Mrs. Brumback, his direct legatee, or of any one of his sons or daughters, his ultimate legatees, would have defeated the enterprise.

This does not detract from Mr. Brumback's generosity or our obligations of gratitude to him, but extends the circle of our benefactors and creates new objects of gratitude. This is both refreshing and commendable. In an age when the chief end of heirs and legatees often seems to be to have and to hold the ancestral estate, and when strife often results as to which shall obtain the lion's share, in this family the only strife seems to have been, if strife there was, as to which would be the most liberal and literal in carrying out the ancestral wish.

Having said thus much, there remains but little more for me to say, or do, than to proclaim, in the presence of this vast audience, in behalf of the trustees of this library, and in behalf of the citizens of the county, whose servants they are, that yonder great store-house of knowledge is accepted for the uses and purposes for which it has been presented. And knowing the trustees as I do, and knowing the sentiment and temper of the people, and full of confidence in the future, I do feel perfectly safe in promising that the same shall never be perverted from the use intended. Because of its being so massive and substantially built I do not see why the end of the century, the threshold of which we are just passing, should not see this building still standing and the light of knowledge, education and morality, radiating from it in all directions and lighting up the dark places of this community, as the great luminary of the day sends out its rays in every direction, illuminating the dark corners of the Universe of God.

I wish I did not have to close here. Bear with me in one more thought. If it be true, as is the theory of some and

perhaps the hope of many, that the spirits of our departed friends are ever with us — surrounding us as guardian angels — and that they are not strangers to the scenes and incidents of the present life; I say, if this be so, how the happiness, though in paradise, of Georgia Glenn, Mary Leeson and J. S. Brumback must be enhanced this day, in beholding this fruition of their hopes, labors and ambition.

Again allow me to say that the benefits flowing from this magnificent library building and its contents will not be confined to the present age or generation. After the last survivor of this vast audience shall have been gathered to the fathers, hundreds and thousands of grateful men, women and children, deciphering the inscription engraved with mallet and chisel over yon grand entrance, will roll the name, "Brumback," as a sweet morsel under their tongues and on their lips sweet gratitude will lovingly and lastingly linger.

DEDICATORY PRAYER OF REV. I. D. WORMAN

O Lord, our God, we praise Thee as the source of every good impulse; and especially for the gift of Thy Son in whom Thou hast taught us that we should not live for self, but unto Thee and our fellow-men.

We thank Thee for the benevolence of him who conceived this work which we now dedicate and for the affectionate faithfulness of those whom he charged with the execution of it. May we receive it from them with grateful hearts, and by Thy grace make a proper and rightful use of this beautiful building and the library it contains.

And now, we beseech Thee, O God, sanctify this building for library uses. Do Thou protect and preserve it; and may the citizens of this county of Van Wert make such use of the same as shall testify to their appreciation of this gift, and bring to them and their children the greatest benefit.

May they hold it as a sacred trust to be cherished and so used that it may be a blessing in this community. To this end do Thou give wisdom and guidance to those who have been, and shall be, chosen to care for this building and library, that it may be so managed and such books found therein as shall make it a means for the intellectual, moral and spiritual uplifting of the people. May it be to us a memorial of the public spirit and charity of the giver, and of the filial zeal of

those who have so nobly wrought out the purpose of their father. May the presence of this building be a benediction to the citizens of this county and town, ever reminding us that, as good citizens, we must have an interest in the public welfare. These and all other favors and mercies we ask in the name of the Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ADDRESS OF STATE LIBRARIAN, HON. C. B. GALBREATH

A first visit to your city and county could not be made under circumstances more pleasant and inspiring. This is an auspicious occasion. You are assembled here to inaugurate a work worthy of the new century. In the years to come, succeeding generations will look back with pride to the use that you have made of this day.

The formal dedication of yonder building is more than an event of local interest. It has attracted attention in other counties and other states. It is, therefore, not unfitting that a representative of the library interests of Ohio should participate in these ceremonies.

To popularize education and bring its attainment within the reach of all is an ideal of genuine reform and an object of wise statesmanship. The free public library is an educational institution. As such it is entitled to the support of the community and the favor of the state.

The best thing that a youth can take from school, along with the rudiments of learning, is a taste for healthful literature. That makes books his teachers when school days are ended. That unrolls to his eyes the page of knowledge "rich with the spoils of time." That makes him the heir of the ages. All this is understood. It was known and appreciated half a century ago. There are those here today who can remember when many neighborhoods had little collections of books, which with the free school, the village lyceum and the rural debating society sent forth young men to places of trust and honor. Then came a period of reaction. Ten years ago in Ohio the free library was practically unknown. A hopeful sign of the times is the revival of interest in this important educational agency.

Among the agricultural counties of the state, Van Wert takes the lead in the library movement and sets an example whose influence will doubtless be felt at the end of the century.

Think of what the success of this experiment means to the people of this city and county, and you will still be unable to measure the beneficent results of the work whose foundations you have laid so wisely and so well. The friends of education beyond your borders are watching you. Hold aloft the standard that you have raised and other counties will follow. Great is your opportunity and fortunate the means provided to meet it. You may well feel proud of that beautiful, substantial, well-equipped building, and the collection of books now ready to go forth on their mission. For this you are under obligation, first of all, to him whose enlightened philanthropy made possible the erection of yonder living monument.

The character of such a man is a perpetual blessing and inspiration. In his presence we forget that the world is narrow and sordid, the soul glows with faith in humanity and we feel that Altruria is not far off after all. This good man in life did not seek official preferment or worldly honors. When he bade farewell to earthly scenes he left to the citizens of Van Wert County a generous testimonial of affectionate regard and interest in their future welfare. Without seeking fame he has found it—how abundantly the future alone can tell.

It is not always safe, even when circumstances invite, to prophesy. But we may rest assured that here at least John Sanford Brumback will not be forgotten. When the great generals of the great wars and the little generals of the little wars are fading memories, when the red luster of conquest no longer allures, when political masters have passed from the world's applause to oblivion quick and complete, the benefactor whose work we dedicate today will live in the grateful appreciation of this community.

Who were the officials of Pennsylvania in 1831? The list would contain for us no familiar names. But he who reads has heard of Stephen Girard, who in that year bequeathed a princely fortune to education and charity. Who shape the political destinies of that commonwealth today? Some of them you know. They are doubtless as worthy as their predecessors, but who will recall them in the years to come? There is one name, however, that will endure within and beyond the borders of that state. The coming generation will know of Andrew Carnegie, who, though not a socialist, is

realizing the dream of Bellamy in that great cooperative literary store-house, the free public library — the people's university. His work will endure, and the monuments that he is raising will attract eager and grateful hearts in the pursuit of learning when the century grows old.

The grandest gift that a great soul can bestow is the expression of itself — its free, honest, living thought. The author who gives this confers a boon upon humanity. And he who popularizes and perpetuates the master work of the master minds is likewise a benefactor. Such is the work of the founder of a library. It is a happy thought that the fame of both is secure; that the final verdict of time is just; that there is a blessed immortality in the hearts of the children of men reserved for those who have opened up the way to wider opportunity, who have illumined it with the ray of learning, who have helped to make our mortal labors light and joyous, who have removed shackles from the hands and burdens from the shoulders of the world. Such has been the service of John Sanford Brumback to this community.

Others have assisted in this laudable enterprise. The Library Association of your city that for years, in the face of many obstacles, kept up its organization and thus prepared the way for the greater work that follows is to be congratulated upon this occasion. The results of its labors freely given will encourage others who are faithfully working towards the same worthy end.

Through the press and other sources we have learned that the public duly appreciates the conduct of the heirs of the estate in their unselfish efforts to carry out the wishes of Mr. Brumback as expressed in his will. Nothing could be added, perhaps, to the tribute that has already been paid them. Too much cannot be said, however, for the wisdom with which the bequest has been applied. Provision has been made for the representation of all interests on your board of trustees, and this body is so constituted that the library is not likely to be made the prey of partisan politics. In a public library tenure of office should depend upon efficient service and that alone. The details of the work cannot be mastered in a day or a year. When the lady in charge has in her the material out of which the good librarian is made, every year adds to the value of her services. Changes, except for incompetence, are therefore to be avoided. To make the library a whirligig



on the political machine is to expose it to adverse winds in which it will soon whirl its life away. It is fortunate that your board is so constituted as to prevent this.

But the condition that made yours a *county library* is the feature that attracts widest attention. Such a plan has been recommended before, but outside of one or two large cities, where corporate limits are almost coextensive with county lines, no attempt has been made to demonstrate its practicability. It is my sympathy with this provision and my faith in its wisdom, more than all things else, that bring me here today.

The growth revealed by the recent census is essentially the growth of cities and towns. In many sections there has been an actual decline in the rural population. This tends still further to isolate the country homes.

In these times the city lad comes into contact with the electric currents of modern life, where vice elbows virtue in the moving thoroughfare, where poverty is found in the shadow of princely munificence. Allurements there are to the pitfalls, but a thousand hands reach out to lead in wisdom's ways. The graded school, the college, the lecture hall, the gymnasium, the museum, the church, the library—all stand with doors invitingly open.

The country boy stands alone, the child of nature, whose landscape, horizon-girt, limits his little world. The farm is his gymnasium, the rural school his hall of learning, the amphitheater of hills with over-arching sky his temple of philosophy. Meager opportunities, but they have crowned history's page with names illustrious, deeds heroic, and character exalted. His past is an honored one. What of his future? He still has God's sunshine, the pure air of heaven, and an environment that inspires liberty and independence. Add to these gifts of nature, some of the educational advantages of the city, bring the graded school within his reach, through the medium of the traveling library introduce him to the master minds of the ages, and he will face the world, broad-fronted and square-shouldered, strong to "breast the blows of circumstances and make by force his merit known." You offer him the companionship of books. What better could be given? When the long winter nights are here, when the storm is loud without, when the snowflakes silently fall and the frost with invisible finger works crystal flowers on the window-pane,

seated by the fire he will forget his isolation as he follows the printed page, and for him —

“The night shall be full of music.”

All honor to the founder who remembered the boy and the girl on the farm. Let the example be imitated and the rural population of the future will be, not the peasants, but the yeomanry of the land, and the country home will remain the foundation upon which the pillars of the republic shall securely stand.

We have commended the Library Association of your city. We have spoken of the bequest and the condition under which it has been applied. But all these would have been in a measure without result, had it not been for the intelligent appreciation, sound judgment, and public spirit of your County Commissioners. They knew that money expended in such a cause is a wise investment, and with commendable promptitude and unanimity they proceeded, under the law, to authorize the work which has now taken substantial form. I do not know who your commissioners are, but they have nobly responded to the call of duty, and the magnificent building which we dedicate will perpetuate the record of their fidelity.

Fortunate in other things, you are peculiarly fortunate in the day chosen for these ceremonies. The new year and the new century turn our thoughts to the future. Mortal eye cannot penetrate the veil; but hope beats high and faith is strong. We stand upon the vantage ground of the past.

“Life greatens in these later years.

The century's aloë flowers today.”

From this height with poetic ken, we may “dip into the future” and see “the wonders yet to be.” The morning light of the new century strikes the turret of the temple that we dedicate. We crown it with the faith that the unselfish spirit which gave it birth is prophetic of the new and grander day, when right shall reign, when charity shall not fail, when learning shall have a wider field, when the surplus energy and wealth bestowed by science shall be used to liberate the race, when peace shall come down like a benediction from on high, when destructive and inglorious strife shall end, “when the war drum shall beat no longer and the battle flag shall be furled.”

“When man to man united,  
And many wrong things righted,  
The whole world shall be lighted,  
As Eden was of old.”

“America” was then sung by the chorus and audience, after which the benediction was pronounced by Rev. D. B. Koenig.

A reception at the Library was held immediately following the dedicatory program and another in the evening. These functions were largely attended.

#### THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY DEDICATED JANUARY 1, 1901

An appreciative audience of grateful people filled every foot of space in the large auditorium of the First M. E. Church, New Year's afternoon, to participate in the exercises connected with the dedication of the Brumback County Library Building. Long before two o'clock, the time announced for the exercises to commence, standing-room was at a premium. As we looked over the sea of faces it was indeed a delight to notice not only the splendid representation of the citizens of Van Wert, but also among the throng in large numbers the citizens of the various townships of our county, for the library belongs to them as much as to the citizens of the town. It was a day upon which the boy of the farm and the boy of the city alike realized their fondest hopes of having equal rights and privileges in entering the portals of a store-house of knowledge superior in every way to what the most ambitious had ever expected.

All the time the Brumback Library was in course of construction the interest of the people increased. Today the splendid building bequeathed to the county through the generosity of John Sanford Brumback is the pride of all, and it is no wonder that strangers from other states in the throng Tuesday afternoon and evening wished that they too lived in this city and county to enjoy in the fullest measure the benefits to be derived from such an institution.

The splendid musical portion of the program was under the direction of W. H. Hiestand, who conducted a mixed chorus accompanied by Moebus' Orchestra. Hiestand's Band played during the reception in the library in the evening. Very

pleasing features of the afternoon exercises were the two solos rendered by Mr. Chas. W. Clark, a Van Wert boy, who has delighted audiences at home and abroad. He is always welcome, but never more cordially than this time, when he voluntarily came home to help our people sing the songs of joy upon receiving such a handsome present on the dawn of the twentieth century.—*Van Wert Republican*, Jan. 3, 1901.

LIBRARY DEDICATED—RISES IN STATELY MAGNIFICENCE TO HONOR HIM WHO GAVE IT—NEW YEAR'S DAY WITNESSES MOST IMPOSING CEREMONIES, WHEN A NEW ERA BEGAN IN VAN WERT COUNTY'S EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

The coming of the twentieth century has been preceded by many prophecies of untold development and of great achievements, but in no instance has any small city seen the fulfillment of these prophecies in a more fitting style than Van Wert. The dedication of the Brumback Library upon New Year's Day has already placed Van Wert County upon the pages of progressive history and has made Van Wert a city of which the state may be justly proud.

Seldom in the history of Van Wert County has there been an event which has attracted such a multitude of people together. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity, people were packed in every aisle, while many, unable to get inside, were compelled to turn away at the doors. The occasion was one of great moment to the people of Van Wert County, and recognizing the importance of the event and its meaning to posterity they flocked to the exercises with a hearty appreciation of the great spirit of the donor uppermost in their minds.—*Van Wert Times*, Jan. 4, 1901.

Van Wert is one of the youngest counties in Ohio and at the same time one of the most progressive. The Van Wert library is the only library of the kind in the state. It is hoped that wealthy citizens of other counties will follow the example of the late J. S. Brumback and that Ohio may soon be dotted with county libraries similar to the splendid institution dedicated today at Van Wert.—*Toledo Blade*, Jan. 1, 1901.

State Librarian, C. B. Galbreath, says Ohio is behind other states; Van Wert County ahead of other counties. *The Columbus Dispatch* reports the following talk with the State

Librarian: "I expect to see a great revival of interest in public library matters in the opening years of the new century in Ohio," said State Librarian C. B. Galbreath, yesterday, while talking about the magnificent gift of J. S. Brumback to the county of Van Wert—\$50,000 for a public library—which was dedicated on New Year's day. "Ohio is far behind some other states in the matter of public libraries. In Massachusetts there are 127 incorporated municipalities and 124 public libraries. In Ohio we have about 900 incorporated cities and towns and only 60 public libraries." \*

In Van Wert, Ohio, on January 1, 1901, was dedicated one of the first free county libraries in the United States. Thousands of libraries have been presented to cities, but it remained for Mr. J. S. Brumback, of Van Wert, forever to broaden the outlook and set a new standard of influence for every library in the world.—*National League of Improvement Association*.

The circulating department of the Brumback Library will be open to the public next Monday (January 28), when books will be loaned for the first time. During the past week many questions have been asked relative to the mode of securing books, etc. The board is having a booklet of rules and regulations printed, which can be secured from the librarian. Every person of the age of nine years and upward residing in Van Wert County is eligible to borrow books at the Brumback Library, on signing a card agreeing to observe the rules made by the board. There will be no charges for anything, not even cards. Each member of a family over nine years of age is permitted to have a card, but no family may have more than two books at one time. Books may be taken home for a period of two weeks and renewed for two weeks more at the expiration of that time. The board is now consummating arrangements for sub-stations in the various villages and trading centers of the county and announcements of the places where books can be procured will be made soon.—*Van Wert Republican*, Jan. 24, 1901.

\* Number of free public libraries in Ohio in 1914 is 128.

PART II

THE WORK OF THE BRUMBACK  
LIBRARY



## CHAPTER VII

### VAN WERT COUNTY

ONE of the most important incidents of the Revolutionary War was the capture of Major André by Isaac Van Wart, John Paulding and David Williams. These three farmer boys, at a time when money was very scarce, spurned an offer, by the captive, of 10,000 guineas and as large a quantity of dry-goods, as they might wish, for his freedom. Their fidelity was later recognized and each was rewarded by Congress with a farm, a life pension of \$200 a year and a beautiful silver medal, on one side of which was the word "Fidelity" and on the other the motto, "Amor patriae vincit." A modest shaft at Tarrytown, N. Y., dated September 23, 1780, marks the memorable spot where these three young men "withstood temptation and saved the state."

Van Wert County received its name from the first of these three great Revolutionary heroes and was formed April 1, 1820, out of lands purchased from the Indians at the treaty of Wapakoneta in 1818. It is bounded on the north by Paulding County, on the east by Allen and Putnam counties, on the south by Mercer and Auglaize counties, and on the west by Allen County, Indiana. In 1830, ten years after its formation, the population of the county, according to the federal census, was only 49. So the organization of the county was delayed until 1835. By 1840 the population had increased to 1,577. Until 1890 the increase for each decade was large, but from 1890 to 1910 while the population of the cities and towns showed a small gain the



population of the rural districts showed a loss. The decrease in the rural districts was slight between 1890 and 1900, with the result that the county as a whole made a small gain in population during the decade. But the falling off in the rural population was so pronounced between 1900 and 1910 that it overcame an increase on the part of the cities and towns and showed a loss for the whole county of 1,275. The population of the county for each decade from 1850 to 1910 is as follows: 1850, 4,793; 1860, 10,283; 1870, 15,823; 1880, 23,028; 1890, 29,671; 1900, 30,394; 1910, 29,119. The large increase in our national urban population coincident with the small increase in our national rural population and the actual decrease in our rural population in many counties and several states is a problem worthy of the most careful consideration. The decrease in the rural population of Van Wert County during the past two decades is the result of three major causes:

(1) The virtual completion of the work that had to do with the removal of the forests and the draining of the swamps;

(2) The invention of numerous agricultural tools and implements of a labor-saving character; and —

(3) The increase in the size of the farms.

It is desirable that there be at all times enough people in the county to establish a correct equilibrium between rural and urban population, and the nation has that today. There will not be a greater increase of the rural population as compared with the urban population until intensive farming becomes more common. And intensive farming will not become more common until circumstances make it necessary as circumstances have made it necessary, in Europe. And even when that time comes a drift from the urban centers to the rural districts will not be needed, considering rural America as a whole, but simply a reduced migration from the country to the cities.

Van Wert County pioneers found three great obstacles to progress on their arrival in the new country of north-western Ohio, viz., dense forests, extensive swamps and many dangerous wild animals. To overcome these was no small undertaking. But the early settlers did this and they are the ancestors of a large part of the present population.

Who were these early settlers? They were chiefly English, German and Welsh. It is unnecessary to argue the fact that no communities anywhere can excel those having a population descended mainly from English, German and Welsh stock. And given such forefathers disciplined by the task of having cleared forests, drained swamps and battled with the wild, the descendants will be of a high type. The county has scattering representatives of a number of other nationalities, and there are possibly 400 negroes, most of whom are farmers.

Van Wert County has an area of a little over 405 square miles or 259,479 acres and is divided into twelve townships, viz., Tully, Union, Hoaglin, Jackson, Harrison, Pleasant, Ridge, Washington, Willshire, Liberty, York and Jennings. In Harrison Township the Germans predominate, in York the Welsh, and most of the negroes are found in Willshire Township and Van Wert City. The east half of Washington Township also contains a great many Germans, nearly all of whom are Catholics; the rest of the Germans of the county are, for the most part, Protestants.

The cities and villages of the county are as follows: Van Wert, the county-seat, 7,157; Delphos, 5,038 (in Van Wert County 2,482 and in Allen County 2,556); Ohio City, 860; Convoy, 741; Willshire, 653; Middlepoint, 607; Scott, 472 (in Van Wert County 279 and in Paulding County 193); Wren, 277; Venedocia, 247; and Elgin, 129. This makes the population of one city and the incorporated towns 12,825. The population of the rest of the county is 16,294.

The newspapers of the county number ten. Of these Van Wert has two dailies and one weekly; Delphos one daily and one weekly; Convoy two weeklies; and Willshire, Ohio City and Middlepoint each a weekly.

For a number of years the political parties of the county have been evenly matched. In county, township, city and town elections politics are almost discarded and the candidates are voted for on their merits. It often happens that at the same election both Democrats and Republicans are elected by large majorities. In state and national politics the party lines are more sharply drawn, but not so much so now as in the past.

There are 94.26 miles of railroad in the county: the Pennsylvania (double track), 25.68; Toledo, St. Louis and Western, 24.80; Chicago and Erie (double track), 21.97; Cincinnati Northern, 18.56; and Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton, 3.25. There is one traction line, viz., The Ohio Electric, 26.34 miles. The miles of wagon roads amount to 1013, of which about 800 have been macadamized. Fortunately, limestone rock lies quite close to the surface in many parts of the county with the result that there are a number of good quarries. The present tendency is increased attention to maintenance, which makes for excellence. The cost of piking the county, which is not entirely finished, was approximately \$2,000,000, about \$800,000 of which still represents outstanding bonds. It is worthy of note that the proposed Lincoln Highway from New York to San Francisco passes through Van Wert County, making use of its main road, the Ridge road, which geologists say was at one time the southern shore of Lake Erie.

For telephone service the county has been divided into zones, so that any resident of the county having a telephone can, at any time, converse with any other resident of the county having a telephone. Rural Free Delivery routes extend all over the county. Of course each post-office in

the county has the parcel post privileges and postal savings banks have been established in all the county post-offices except three. There is not a resident of the whole county that is farther than a very few miles from a postal savings office. All the important communities of the county have electric lights, furnished by two large central plants, and farmers living along the main roads connecting the towns lighted by electricity can have electric lights placed in their homes. Moreover, owing to the fact that Van Wert County was once and is still a fairly good oil territory, some of the farmers enjoy the luxury of natural gas.

It would be very difficult to give an accurate statement of the wealth of the people of the county, but in the thirteen banking and four building and loan institutions of the county (counting half the deposits of the three Delphos banks and two building and loan associations and half the deposits of the Scott bank) the total deposits amount to \$3,500,000, which represent \$120 in financial institutions for every person in the county. The county tax duplicate is in round numbers fifty millions. This makes the average to each inhabitant about \$1,725.

Van Wert County's location is unique in this respect that there is no large city near it. Hence the people are largely dependent upon themselves for their instruction and entertainment. This fact explains the popularity of lodges and clubs, of which there are a great many, and the tendency of its people to travel. The people find recreation in automobilizing (there are 600 machines in the county or one to every forty-nine people), attending picture shows, going to the one first-class theatre in the county a few times each season to witness good theatrical productions, and other kinds of legitimate entertainments, of which there are many in all parts of the county during the year. Athletic sports and indoor games are indulged in about as much as they are in the average rural county.

The schools of the county number 116 of which fifteen are in the two cities and the several towns and 101 in the country. In this number are included all the schools of Delphos and the one school of Scott. There are no township schools. All but a very few of the district schoolhouses, including the four parochial schoolhouses, are built of brick, and all are in reasonably good condition with respect to grounds and buildings. The buildings in the cities and towns are excellent, and hundreds of country pupils yearly attend the town and city schools. This retards the growth of the township school sentiment. The salaries of the teachers are above the average of salaries paid in rural counties, the requirements for certificates being reasonably rigid. Most of the schools have collections from the county library in the schools and the teachers come into frequent touch with the well-trained county librarian. The trend in all of the county school work is toward more agricultural instruction for the boys and more domestic science courses for the girls.

The county has 100 churches if all the churches of Delphos and Scott are counted. These are, without making any effort to give them in the order of their numerical strength, the Methodist, the Presbyterian, the Lutheran, the United Brethren, the Baptist, the Catholic, the Friends, the Christian, the Evangelical, the German Reform, the Seven Day Adventist and the Christian Science, and there is one Salvation Army. Almost all of the churches of the county are in a flourishing condition and the religious life of the county is on a high plane. This is evidenced by the aggressive spirit of the churches, by the attendance at services, by the liberal support given all religious movements and by the fact that the county is pronouncedly dry. Five years ago on the passage in Ohio of the county local option law, making the county the unit in temperance matters, Van Wert County voted dry and the "wets" were

unable at the expiration of the first three-year period, and have been unable at any time since then, to secure enough signers to bring again the question to a vote. Under the dry régime, dry sentiment has been steadily growing, and the likelihood is that the county will never again become wet, even though it is bounded on three sides by wet territory, readily accessible by rail. Never before has the county been so prosperous and so safe. The editor of the *American Issue*, the Anti-Saloon League organ of the state, says Van Wert County has one of the best organized anti-saloon leagues in Ohio.

About 16,294 persons out of the population of 29,119 live on farms and make general farming or some special phase of farming their life work. Of the 259,497 acres in the county, 3,902 represent the territory of the cities and towns, about 10 per cent or 25,940 acres are in woodlands and not over fifty acres are waste land, which leaves 229,580 acres that are under cultivation. A conservative estimate of the value of all the land of the county exclusive of that included in city and town corporations is \$125 per acre. Some land runs up to \$200 an acre and a limited number of acres are worth, because of location, excellence of improvements or for some other reason, over \$200 an acre. There is very little land anywhere in the county that can be bought under \$100 an acre. So that \$125 an acre as an average would be considered low enough. The entire county farmland at \$125 an acre would therefore be worth \$32,000,000.

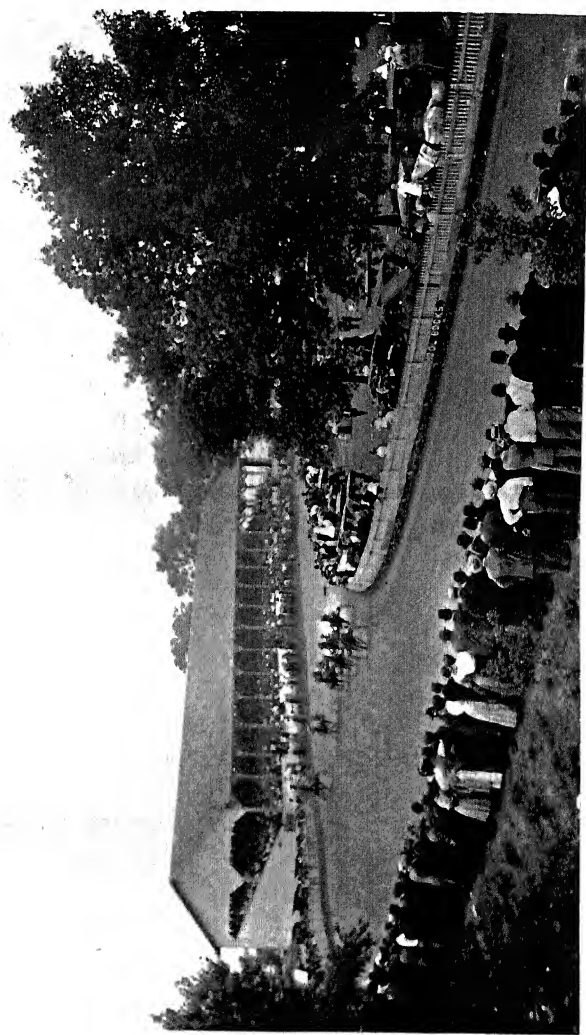
Van Wert County has only one river, the St. Mary's, which passes through the southwest corner of the county.

The chief crop of the county is corn and the average yield for the whole county during the past ten years is about fifty bushels per acre. Oats are the chief small grain. They are not considered a paying crop on such valuable land, but ordinarily the most certain crop in getting a stand of clover, which is essential to the maintenance of

fertility. Wheat, rye and barley are raised only on a small scale. Next to corn and oats comes hay, which is a very important crop in the county. In recent years much attention has been given to the raising of sugar beets, and the likelihood is that alfalfa will greatly gain in favor owing to a recent alfalfa campaign. Hogs and horses are the chief live stock raised for shipment. Possibly a third of the large annual corn crop of the county is used to fatten hogs for shipment to the eastern markets and hundreds of fine draft horses raised in Van Wert County are sold each year in the great horse markets of the country, and many of them bring fancy prices. Some cattle are raised, some are shipped in and fattened and thousands of pounds of butter-fat are gathered daily by the creamery wagons that go all over the county, and there is scarcely a farmer in the county that does not raise at least one or more hundred chickens annually to sell and for egg production.

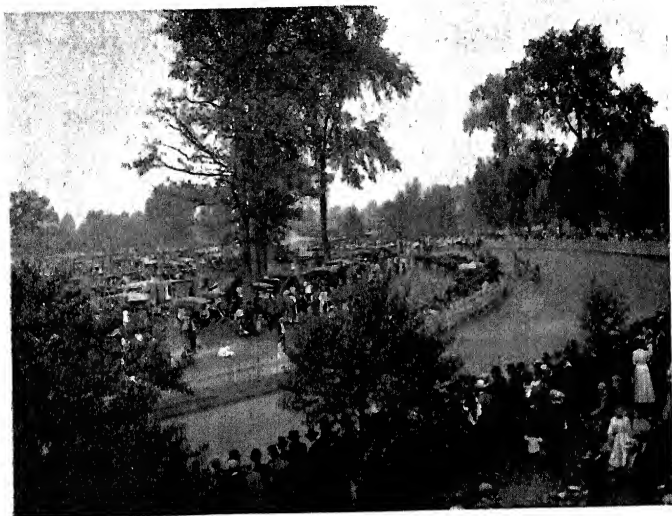
While the 16,294 country people are engaged in the activities of farm life, most of the 12,825 residents of the cities and towns are engaged in lines of business that get their chief support from the people living in the county. Aside from the railroad employees (about 1,000 in number) who make Van Wert County their home, there are not more than 500 persons among the 12,825 inhabitants of the cities and towns whose business or profession is not almost solely dependent on the local population.

The county spirit is very strong, which is evidenced by the popularity of the several county institutions and the many county activities of a varied character. The county institutions of first importance are the county library and the county fair. The County Fair Board has, within a mile of Van Wert City, fair grounds containing fifty-four acres, on which are located excellent buildings for county fair purposes, valued at \$55,000. The fame of the Van Wert County Fair has gone abroad. The attendance during



THE VAN WERT COUNTY FAIR





THE VAN WERT COUNTY FAIR



THE VAN WERT COUNTY FAIR

the past four or five years has been for the five days during which the fair is held 50,000 to 75,000.

That, locally, the value of the county unit is coming to be more and more appreciated in all efforts along the lines of progress is plain to be seen in the following instances.

When a few years ago a Chautauqua association was organized, it was made a county institution. The County Chautauqua has enabled Van Wert County to enjoy for a number of seasons a Chautauqua program that has been pre-eminently successful both artistically and financially.

A hospital has for several years been located at the county-seat. Incorporated as The Van Wert County Hospital, it is proving a success, which entitles it to a permanent place among the established county institutions. During the past few months the hospital trustees have received from the estates of two Van Wert citizens, Marvin Woodruff and John Strandler, bequests sufficiently large to provide for a good building and an adequate endowment.

By the time this book comes from the press, arrangements will have been consummated whereby Van Wert County will have at its county-seat one of the finest and most heavily endowed Y. M. C. A. buildings in any city of corresponding size in the United States. The will of John Strandler provides for this in full with a stipulation that the Y. M. C. A. must be incorporated under the laws of Ohio and be a county organization.

County parks, a county fair, a county library, a county hospital, a county Chautauqua, a county Y. M. C. A.—all the result of the county's own public-spirited citizens, who made these institutions possible not only by generous donations of money but also by unselfish donations of time and effort! All are indicative of a high type of county patriotism.

In addition to the preceding philanthropies, several others might be mentioned. George Marsh, Sr., deeded to Van

Wert County the ground which now constitutes the several parks in the city of Van Wert. Perine De Puy left a large sum to the public schools of Van Wert, stipulating that the income be used in buying books and clothing for poor children. Mrs. Rachael Krout bequeathed to the First Methodist Church a large part of her estate, which was used to erect commodious Sunday-school rooms. Mrs. Priscilla Buckingham left a bequest to be used as the best interests of the city dictated. Marvin Woodruff gave a large sum to the Lutheran Church of Van Wert, thereby making possible the present fine stone structure. John Strandler provided in his will for the endowment of an instructorship in mathematics for the grades of the public schools.

Other donations of smaller amounts have been made for various purposes, but these represent the chief philanthropies of the county.

County institutions of a business character are the Van Wert County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, most of whose business is in Van Wert County, and the Van Wert County Mutual Live Stock Insurance Company, all of whose business is confined to the county, both of which institutions are in a flourishing condition.

Besides these county institutions there are many county activities along a number of lines; e. g., there are corn contests, other crop growing contests, poultry shows, essay contests, singing contests (thanks to the Welsh element in our population) and numerous county gatherings such as Farmers' and Teachers' Institutes and conventions for various purposes, all of which bind the people of the county together and stimulate cooperation and patriotism.

After this general survey of Van Wert County the reader will be able to study more intelligently the statistical statement of the work of the Brumback Library of Van Wert County since it opened its doors to the public Jan. 1, 1901.

## CHAPTER VIII

### THE LIBRARY TRUSTEES

IT HAS been shown how a library for Van Wert County, planned by J. S. Brumback, made possible through his generosity, its future secured as a result of his foresight in providing for its maintenance, was made a reality by the action of the County Commissioners, H. H. Ludwig, Peter Knittle and H. G. Schumm. These men were sufficiently broad-minded and far-seeing to realize how much such an institution might mean to the entire county. When they officially approved the contract binding the county to maintain the library through all the future, their act was applauded by a public-spirited people. Here it is worthy of remark that the succeeding County Commissioners have been in sympathy with the work of the library and have cordially cooperated with its trustees. Some of them are especially to be commended for their zeal in promoting the moral and intellectual as well as the material interests of the county. The present Commissioners elected in the fall of 1913 are P. M. Weisman, George Fissel and H. G. Schumm. Mr. Schumm was one of the three Commissioners who signed the library contract in 1898.

After the way had been thus carefully prepared, it remained for the Library Trustees to do their part, namely, to make the county library a practical success. That they fully appreciated the responsibility resting upon them and assumed it successfully, may clearly be seen in the results of fifteen years of conscientious effort. No board ever entered upon its duties with more zeal and enthusiasm than did the one which met for the first time June 2, 1899,

in the reading-room of the Ladies' Library Association, and organized by electing J. P. Reed president, Thomas M. Thorpe vice-president, and Saida M. Brumback (Mrs. E. I. Antrim) secretary. The other members were Mrs. R. J. Cavette, Mrs. W. H. Hiestand, Joseph L. Tossey and J. M. Laudick. This same spirit of enthusiasm has characterized the work of the succeeding members of the board.

Fifteen years ago, library work was not so fully organized as today, library schools were not so generally attended, library architecture had been given but little special thought, library helps were less numerous and library cooperation was less common. On this point Mr. C. B. Galbreath, formerly Ohio State Librarian, in a book \* compiled by him says: "By reference to the following pages it will be found that the free library movement in Ohio is still in its infancy. Only sixty-seven free circulating reference libraries are reported in this state. Ohio suffers by comparison with many other states. There was a time when she held high rank in this important field. Recent years have witnessed a revival of interest which the friends of the library movement believe to be prophetic of better things to follow. This has been accentuated and accelerated by the intelligent philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie. Many of his gifts have been made since the following sketches went to press."

It is a matter of congratulation, therefore, that this first Board had the wisdom to employ a trained library organizer to introduce approved technical methods in the routine work of the library. But when they turned their attention to the matter of making the library available to the remote rural districts of the county they could get no assistance along this line, they found no established precedent to follow, no county library to serve as a model. The

\* "Sketches of Ohio Libraries," published in 1902 and being the first attempt to give a detailed account of the condition and work of the public libraries of Ohio.

great awakening to rural problems had not yet taken place. As a library owned and maintained by the people of the county, to all of whom library service was due, it entered upon a new field of library work, with conditions in the county, as shall be seen, less favorable for carrying on rural extension work than they are today.

Fourteen years ago Van Wert County had the same institutions which all counties have in connection with their political and economic life. There had been considerable demand for better roads and for such other improvements as were necessary for the material welfare of the people of the county. The county fair was the one county activity which tended to unify all the people of the county, rural and urban, in a social way. There were individual organizations in the county of various kinds for the benefit of local communities, which acting separately sometimes operated against rather than for one another. The real county spirit of cooperation and patriotism which today brings the people of the county into closer relationship had not yet developed. When, then, the idea of making the county a unit in library maintenance and service was advanced, it was regarded as an innovation, both at home and abroad. Under these conditions and with many problems peculiar to the situation confronting them, the Board of Trustees was dominated by the idea of making the library available and of real benefit to all the residents of the county and to this end devised plans for the operation of a *county* library and gradually worked out their own county library system.

It has been the purpose of the trustees at all times to hold the administration of the library in their own hands and to maintain a close supervision of its work. This has enabled them to shape a library policy that has been consistent through the years. But while the Board controls the administration of the library, it considers the librarian its executive and stands ready to encourage and support

her efforts. By the careful thought, conscientious effort and business methods of the Board, supplemented by the efficient work of capable librarians, it has been possible to put into successful operation a county library.

The following is a complete list of the trustees who have cheerfully given of their time, without compensation, to the management of the library.

#### APPOINTED BY THE BRUMBACK HEIRS

Mrs. E. I. Antrim, Secretary, Van Wert, 1899 to date.

John P. Reed, President, Van Wert, 1899 to date.

#### APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

\* J. L. Tossey, Hoaglin Township, 1899 to Nov. 13, 1901.

† G. B. Hale, Union Township, 1901-1906.

Mrs. R. J. Cavette, Van Wert, 1906 to date.

† J. M. Laudick, Delphos, Washington Township, 1899-1907.

J. W. Nicodemus, Ridge Township, 1907 to date.

\* T. M. Thorpe, Willshire, 1899-1910.

† Rev. J. A. Gordon, D. D., Van Wert, 1910-1912.

C. B. Pollock, Vice-president, Van Wert, 1912 to date.

#### APPOINTED BY THE LADIES' LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Mrs. R. J. Cavette, Van Wert, 1899-1906.

Mrs. I. H. Malick, Van Wert, 1906 to date.

Mrs. W. H. Hiestand, Van Wert, 1899-1900.

\* Mrs. J. Strandler, Van Wert, 1900-1903.

† Mrs. B. F. Troup, Van Wert, 1903-1912.

† Elmer Scott, Van Wert, 1912 to Oct., 1913.

Mrs. J. M. Craig, Van Wert, Jan., 1913, to date.

Three of this number, Mr. John P. Reed, Mrs. E. I. Antrim and Mrs. R. J. Cavette, have been on the Board since its organization and for their faithful work deserve a special word.

Too much cannot be said of the service rendered the library by John P. Reed, who has served as president of the Board from the beginning. He is a son-in-law of the

\* Deceased.

† Changed residence.

donor, having married Miss Estelle Brumback in 1886, and has ever had the interests of the library close at heart. It is due, in large measure, to him that the building was so substantially constructed, as he personally supervised the work and insisted upon the best of workmanship and materials in the fulfilling of all contracts. Furthermore, because of his knowledge of conditions in the county and wide-spread acquaintance with its people, with whom he has had business dealings extending over a period of thirty-two years in connection with the Oil Well Supply Company and as cashier of the Van Wert National Bank, he has been an important factor in the success of the library. His unselfish work, his business-like methods and his genial disposition have at all times inspired the County Commissioners with confidence in the aims and work of the library, and have wrought for absolute harmony among the in-coming and out-going members of the Board. Mr. Reed was born at Sharon, Pa. In early life he became associated with the Oil Well Supply Company and served them in a responsible capacity in New York and Pennsylvania before coming to Van Wert, Ohio, where he continued with the company until elected in 1889 cashier of the Van Wert National Bank.

“Mrs. E. I. Antrim, *née* Saida Brumback, youngest daughter of J. S. Brumback and joint author of this book, was born in the city of Van Wert. She graduated from the local High School, attended the Mary Institute of St. Louis and later studied in the Ohio Wesleyan University. In 1899 she was married to Ernest Irving Antrim, A. B., De Pauw University and Ph. D., Göttingen University, Germany, since which time his interests have been centered in Van Wert County, which, in 1912, he represented in the Ohio Constitutional Convention.

“Mrs. Antrim was made one of the two representatives of the Brumback family on the Library Board and has, out



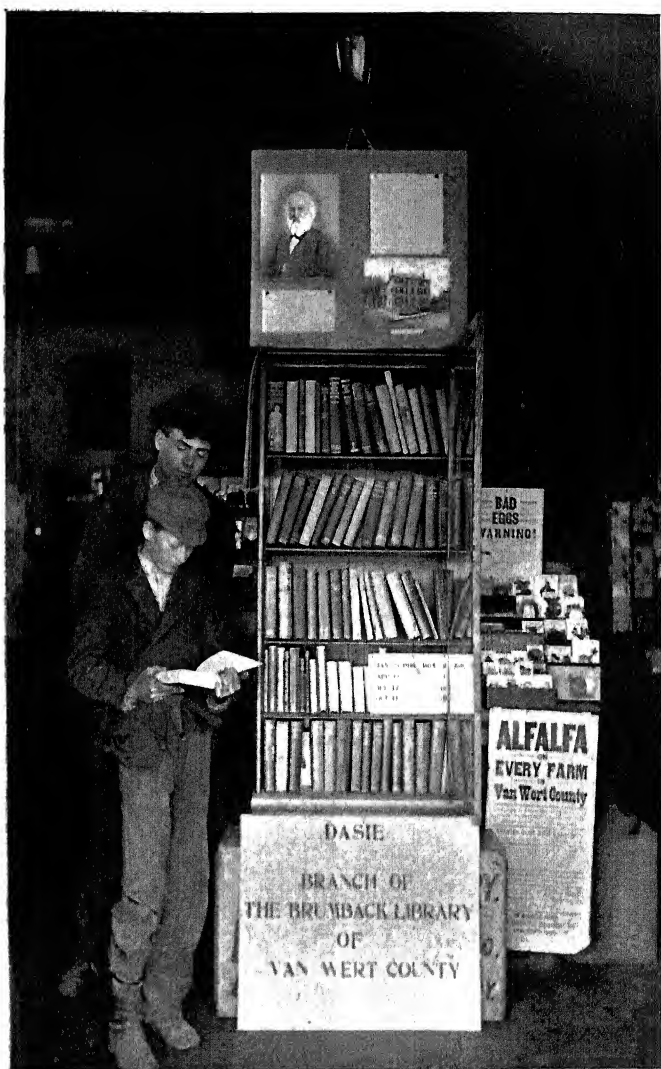
of pure love for the work, faithfully performed the duties that devolved upon the secretary from the first meeting, June 2, 1899, to date. Her untiring efforts and unlimited enthusiasm have been a source of inspiration to her library co-workers. Because of her long connection with the library and her knowledge of the work in all its details, she has been able to offer timely and valuable suggestions for the consideration of the Board. Mrs. Antrim early got the vision of the mission of a county library and this has been the incentive in her work as a trustee." \*

Another who has been identified with the work of the library from its beginning and had an important part in all its struggles and triumphs is Mrs. R. J. Cavette, *née* Clara Conover. Always ready to bear her share of the burden of the work, her sound judgment and painstaking efforts have at all times rendered her services most valuable, whether as vice-president or as a member of the several committees. Born in the city of Van Wert and actively interested in its welfare, she was a charter member of the Ladies' Library Association and acted as one of its representatives on the Brumback Library Board from 1899 to 1906. She was then appointed by the County Commissioners and has served as their appointee since that time.

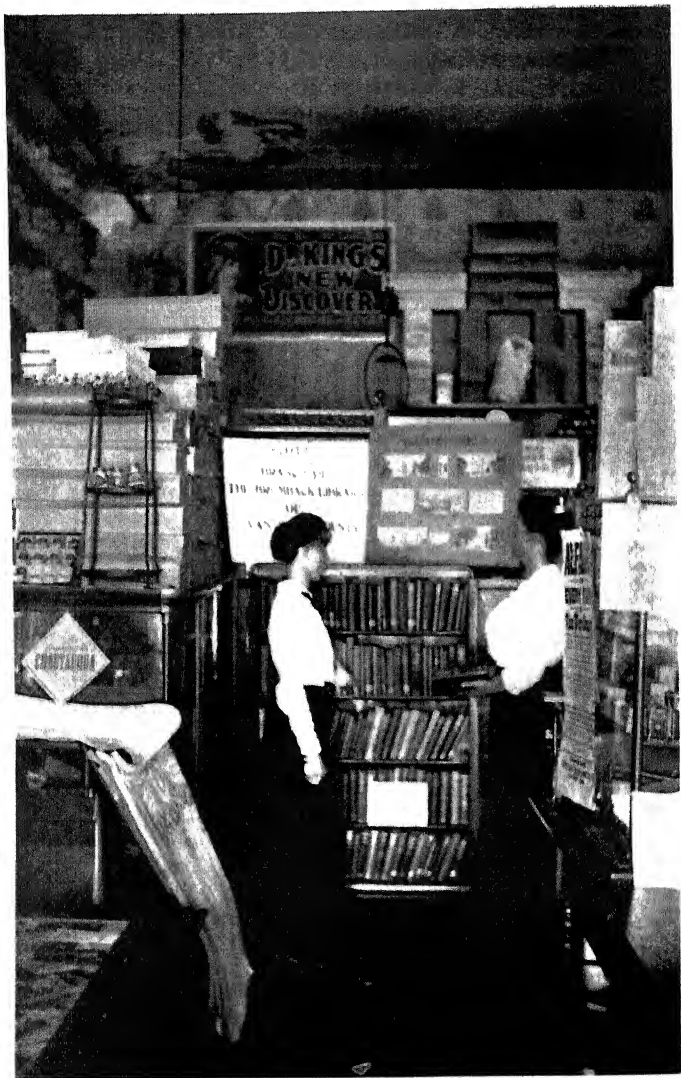
Mrs. I. H. Malick has been connected with the Brumback Library as trustee for eight years. She is one of the representatives appointed by the Ladies' Library Association, of which she was a charter member. Her personal and loyal interest in the library work makes her a useful member and her willingness to do her part is shown by her faithful attendance at Board meetings. Having long been a resident of Van Wert County, she is familiar with its activities and library interests.

Mr. J. W. Nicodemus, appointed by the County Commissioners, has been a trustee for seven years, part of the time

\* Written by E. I. Antrim.



LOCATION OF DASIE BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR



LOCATION OF SCOTT BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR

acting as vice-president. He wields a strong influence in the county and his opinion is highly respected by scores of citizens as well as his co-workers on the Library Board. He is a recognized progressive farmer, having been for a number of years one of the lecturers sent out by the state to farmers' institutes and is at the present time president of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society. He is a splendid type of that class of men who are continually working for the welfare of the people.

Mr. C. B. Pollock, vice-president, appointed by the County Commissioners, is a young man of high ideals and is greatly interested in all worthy county activities. He is a scientific farmer, having had a course in agriculture at the Ohio State University. He and his father have one of the model farms of Van Wert County, noted for its handsome buildings surrounded by grounds artistic in their landscape effects. In the two years he has served as library trustee, he has proved himself a very useful member.

Mrs. J. M. Craig was appointed January, 1914, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Elmer E. Scott, who recently moved to Bayne, Washington. The Board lost a valuable member when he resigned. The fact that Mrs. Craig was a charter member of the Ladies' Library Association is a guarantee that she will be a helpful member of the Brumback Library Board.

The rules adopted by the trustees for their government are as follows:

1. The Brumback Library is managed and controlled by a non-partisan board of seven trustees, three of whom are appointed by the Commissioners of Van Wert County, two by the heirs of J. S. Brumback or his descendants, and two by the Ladies' Library Association, in accordance with the contract entered into by and between the above named parties July 30, 1898. [The method of selecting trustees for a county library is very important. While it is desirable that the County Commissioners have appointive power, it is equally desirable to have some members appointed otherwise, that the Board may be free from political entanglements.]

2. Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at the library building on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P. M.

3. The president or any two members shall have power to call a special meeting of the Board, and it shall be the duty of the secretary to notify each member of any special meeting.

4. Four members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

5. The order of business at regular meetings of the Board shall be as follows:

- A. Reading of the minutes.
- B. Reports from standing committees.
- C. Reports from special committees.
- D. Reports from officers and librarian.
- E. Unfinished business.
- F. New business.

6. The officers of the Board shall consist of a president, vice-president, and secretary, each of whom shall be elected at the regular meeting in February and shall serve for one year, or until their successors are elected. They shall be elected by ballot, a majority of the whole Board being necessary to elect.

7. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Board, appoint the standing committees, sign all orders on the county treasurer, prepare for the consideration of the Board the annual report of the Board of Trustees and perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office.

8. The vice-president, in the absence of the president, shall preside at all meetings of the Board, and in case of the death, removal or resignation of the president shall perform his duties until a successor is elected to serve for the unexpired term.

9. The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees, together with accurate accounts of all receipts and expenditures for and in behalf of the library. He shall pay over to the treasurer of Van Wert County each month, for the credit of the library fund, all moneys received by the library and shall take and keep on file, for a period of at least six years, vouchers for all moneys expended. He shall render a complete and accurate financial statement of the library as shown by his books, to the County Commissioners, on or before the end of the fiscal year, to-wit, the first day of February, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office.

10. All orders drawn on the treasurer of Van Wert County for the payment of moneys out of the library fund shall be signed

by the president and secretary and issued only upon an aye and nay vote of the Board of Trustees, entered upon the minutes.

11. There shall be five standing committees of the Board, consisting of three members each, as follows:

Committee on Books and Reading-Room, Committee on Buildings and Grounds, Committee on Finance, Committee on Rules and Regulations, and Committee on Circulation.

The president shall be ex-officio member of all standing committees.

12. The Committee on Books and Reading-Room shall have general charge of all matters relating to the selection, purchase, exchange, and binding of books and periodicals; and of all matters relating to stamps, plates, labels and printed forms in use in the library.

13. The Committee on Buildings and Grounds shall have general charge of all matters relating to the maintenance, alteration, repair, furnishing, insurance, heating and lighting of the library building; together with the general charge of the library grounds.

14. The Committee on Finance shall have general charge of all matters relating to accounts, revenues and salaries, and shall see that the proper tax levy for the maintenance of the library is made by the County Commissioners as per contract.

15. The Committee on Rules and Regulations shall have general charge of all employees, together with the laws, rules and regulations of the library and the enforcement thereof.

16. The Committee on Circulation shall have general charge of the circulation of all books and maintain a supervision of the branch libraries established by the Board.

17. All committees shall, at the regular meeting each month, present reports showing in detail their transactions for the preceding month. No unusual or extraordinary indebtedness shall be incurred except by order of the Board of Trustees.

18. When required by the Board to do so, the librarian shall invite bids for furnishing the Board with such supplies, books, etc., concerning which there can be competition among dealers. Purchases shall be made from the lowest bidder, considering quality, etc., local dealers being given the preference where practicable. All bills, except small expenses, which are to be paid by the librarian as hereinafter mentioned, shall be indorsed by the chairman of the committee under whose supervision said bills were made. When a bill has been allowed by the Board of Trustees, the secretary shall draw an order upon the county treasurer,

payable to the order of the person in whose favor said bill is allowed.

19. A sum not exceeding twenty-five dollars may be left with the librarian to pay incidental expenses, such as postage, express charges, freight, etc. True statements of such payments shall be made to the Board of Trustees.

20. In meetings of the Board, all motions and resolutions offered shall be laid over to the next ensuing meeting, on any member of the Board giving notice to discuss. Upon demand of any member, an aye and nay vote of the Board shall be taken and recorded upon any motion or resolution.

## CHAPTER IX

### THE LIBRARY STAFF

THE work of the library having been properly organized according to approved methods, it has been the policy of the trustees, at all times, to have trained and educated librarians at its head. The position of county librarian offers opportunities to an ambitious person for development in many directions. In connection with the duties, unusual in their character, the librarian has the benefit of a thoroughly systematized county work, the result of many years of experience in county extension activities. After becoming sufficiently familiar with the county system the librarian is given ample opportunity to exercise originality in further development of the work, and frequently has the pleasure of seeing the results of his efforts brought to a successful fruition. While perfection is not to be expected in any person, the model county librarian must have the following qualifications: liberal education, library training or its equivalent in library experience, high library ideals, executive ability, tact and originality.

During the fourteen years of the library's history, four librarians have been connected with it, all of whom have been young women of ability and education and their work has been of high character. The nature of the achievements of each librarian has necessarily differed according to the standards of the profession at large and the needs of the library at the particular time of her incumbency, just as the nature of the work of future librarians will differ from that of today. Each has promoted the welfare of the library in a general way and, at the same time, rendered valuable



service along specific lines. The Brumback Library has been fortunate in its librarians and much credit is due them for the excellent results achieved.

Miss Ella L. Smith, the first librarian of the Brumback Library, was born at St. Louis, but has spent most of her life in Van Wert, Ohio, where she graduated from the public schools. She received from the Ohio Wesleyan University the degree of B. A. and from the University of Michigan the degree of M. A. Before becoming librarian of the Brumback Library, in August, 1900, she had had considerable experience as a teacher in high school work. She remained with the library until July, 1905, about which time she accepted a position in the Mercantile Library of San Francisco, remaining there until the earthquake disorganized the city. She later became connected with the library at Marion, Ohio. At present she is state library organizer for Ohio. Associated with the Brumback Library during its first five years she materially aided in its pioneer work in the county, and because of her superior education maintained at all times a high standard of literary excellence.

The members of the Board were pleased to employ as librarian another resident of Van Wert County, Miss Jane W. Brotherton, of Delphos, who was entitled to the position not only because of her excellent preparation but also because of her acquaintance with Van Wert County and its library history. After completing her college course at Denison University, Granville, Ohio, where she graduated in 1899 with the degree of B. S., she attended the library school of the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., graduating in 1903 with the degree B. L. S. She reorganized the public library of Franklin, Ohio, September-December, 1903. Later she was engaged as cataloguer in the Congressional Library, Washington, D. C., 1904-1905, which position she resigned to become librarian of the Brumback Library of Van Wert County, Ohio. Owing to the death of her mother

in 1909, Miss Brotherton tendered her resignation, which was accepted with regret. She has not since taken a library position, but her influence remains at work not only in the newly organized public library of her home town but in the results accomplished during her librarianship of the Brumback Library.

The Board was fortunate in its choice of Miss Corinne A. Metz as successor to Miss Brotherton. Miss Metz was born in Newark, Ohio, and received her early education in the public schools of that city. After one year at the Western College for Women at Oxford, Ohio, she completed her college course at Denison University, Granville, Ohio, where she graduated with the degree of B. L. From 1905 to 1907 she attended the New York State Library School, at Albany, N. Y., receiving from that institution the degree B. L. S. Her first library experience was obtained at Washington Court House, Ohio, where she was librarian of the public library from September 1907 to March 1909. From March to September, 1909, she organized the Township Library at Conneaut, Ohio. Her services with the Brumback Library were most successful as indicated by the fruitful years of her incumbency, from December 1909 to March 1913. She resigned to become librarian of the Wasco County Library of The Dalles, Oregon. To this new field of labor she carried the good wishes of many friends.

Miss Anna L. Holding was elected to the librarianship of the Brumback Library in March, 1913. Graduating in 1901 from Oberlin College with the degree of A. B., she was elected a Phi Beta Kappa in 1909, when the chapter was established at that school. Beginning in 1901 she taught in the public schools of Morgantown, W. Va., taking at the same time post-graduate work at the University of West Virginia. After teaching several years she entered the New York State Library School and, during the time she spent working for her degree of B. L. S., which she

received in 1908, she served for a year on the staff of the New York State Library in the catalogue department. She was an assistant in the Carnegie Library at Pittsburg from 1908 to 1913, when she came to the Brumback Library. Although she entered upon her new work but recently, she has quickly gained a comprehensive knowledge of the county work and her influence is felt in all the departments of the library.

It is a fact worthy of note that the assistants have been Van Wert young women with one exception, Miss Louise Hawley, who was with the library twenty months as school assistant; at the end of which time she returned to her home to become librarian of the township library at Milan, Ohio. The assistants who have been associated with the work of the library have ably seconded the librarians' efforts. Some of these have been imbued with the true library spirit. They have worked together harmoniously and on the whole have been faithful and loyal to the best interests of the library. Much is heard today of the advantage of "team work" in football playing. This same "team work" is necessary to the success of a library, where is found a diversity of talent, each individual possessing some needful qualification to a greater or less degree. But when the work of each person supplements that of the others, what strength exists in the combination!

Much could be said of the efficiency of the present staff, but only one characteristic of the work of each will be given. Miss Matthys has been in charge of the loan department for eight years. Under her faithful care the work of this department is making steady progress. Miss Swart-out as county assistant has the care of the work pertaining to the fifteen county stations. In the six years of her connection with the library she has proved herself systematic, a very necessary qualification because of the detail in this department. The work of Mrs. Conn as county



LOCATION OF CONVERSE BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR



LOCATION OF CONVERSE BRANCH LIBRARY



LOCATION OF OHIO CITY BRANCH LIBRARY

school assistant is marked by enthusiasm, a valuable asset in her dealings with the teachers of the rural schools and in her personal contact with the children at the central library.

The library has been represented at every meeting of the Ohio Library Association, 1901-1913 inclusive, except in 1907 and 1909, in the last of which years a change of librarians occurred. On some occasions assistants and trustees have accompanied the librarian to the meetings. In two instances the librarian attended the meetings of the American Library Association, and once she went to the International meeting.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF EMPLOYEES  
OF THE LIBRARY

1. The Board of Trustees shall elect, by ballot, a librarian, one or more assistants, a janitor and such other employees as may be required, a majority of the whole Board being necessary to elect. They shall receive such compensation as the Board may determine, and shall be subject to removal at any time, at the pleasure of the Board. The term of office of all regular employees shall end on the first day of March of each year.

2. Subject to the directions of the Board of Trustees and the several committees, the librarian shall have charge of the library building and grounds and shall be held responsible for the care and safety of all books and other property contained therein or connected therewith, as well as for the orderly deportment of employees and patrons. The librarian shall also perform the following duties:

Control, supervise and direct the working force, and as far as practicable assist in the detail work of the several departments.

Keep in permanent form an account of all receipts and disbursements of money in her charge and make a monthly report of the same to the Board of Trustees.

Make a monthly report of the operations of the library, including a list of all accessions to the various departments, whether by gift or purchase, with such recommendations as will best promote the efficiency of the library.

Keep record books of all accessions to the library, with the date of receipt, and in case of donation, the name and place of residence of the donor. Also, see that all accessions are properly classified, shelf-listed and catalogued.

Prepare an annual report showing as fully as is practicable the operations of the library for the preceding year, with an inventory of all books, furniture and the contents of the building.

Seek in every proper way to promote the work and growth of the library.

3. The assistant librarians shall perform such duties as the librarian may direct.

4. The janitor is required to work ten hours per day and such added time as may be necessary for the proper performance of his duties. He is subject to the direction of the librarian and Board of Trustees during hours of service.

5. It is required that apprentice applicants accurately fill out the prescribed blanks furnished by the library and return to the librarian. Those desiring to enter the apprentice class must have the equivalent of a high school education and must pass an examination in history, literature, and general information conducted by the librarian. Other necessary qualifications are a fair knowledge of books, good health, courteous manner, neatness in appearance and work, accuracy, speed, reliability, general intelligence and good judgment. These more general qualifications will be tested during a term of apprenticeship, which requires 288 hours, the hours per day to be arranged with the librarian, numbering not more than five nor less than three. For these 288 hours no remuneration is allowed, the opportunity given for training and experience being considered full compensation. Only regular technical training at one of the library schools or a sufficient previous experience in library work can be accepted as an equivalent to this experience as an apprentice before receiving a regular appointment.

The library does not guarantee positions to those who finish the course; an appointment depending upon a vacancy in the staff and the nature of the position to be filled.

The following is a copy of the blank to be signed by applicants:

Name .....  
 Age .....  
 Health .....  
 Education .....  
 Library Experience .....  
 Motive for entering apprentice class.....

6. The library shall be open week days from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. The circulating department will be open from 9 A. M. to 8 P. M. The length of a working day for members of the library staff

is seven hours. The hours of the librarian and assistants shall, under the direction of the librarian and the committee on rules and regulations, be arranged by schedule to insure the most efficient service to the public. All employees are required to be in their respective places during the prescribed hours of their employment and to give prompt, cheerful, courteous and impartial attendance to the patrons of the library and to their various duties.

7. The library shall be open and free to all every week day excepting New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day; also one-half day from noon to 6 P. M. during the county fair, at the option of the Board.

8. A vacation with pay is granted each member of the staff, but it cannot be taken until earned by service. The conditions are as follows:

The vacation year begins and ends September 10. Those who have been appointed during the year have a proportionate allowance of hours to be taken after the end of the vacation year, September 10. Those leaving the library during the year are entitled to no vacation. Each member is allowed a stated number of hours for the year. Any absence of one hour or more must be deducted by the librarian from this allowance of hours, any fraction of an hour's absence being considered a full hour. The vacation proper consists of hours left to the credit of the individual. Absences occurring between the expiration of the vacation and September 10 will be deducted from the salary. The librarian must be notified in advance by assistants of any intended absence, or as soon as possible in case of an unforeseen absence. Any absence of seven or more continuous hours must be by special permission of the librarian or rules committee. Exchange of hours or making up lost time is not permitted except in rare cases and subject to the approval of both the librarian and rules committee. It is urged for the sake of good health that the vacation proper be taken during the summer and it should be taken continuously. Ordinarily two members of the staff must not be absent at the same time and vacations must be so arranged that one only will be off duty at any given time. In case of death in the immediate family of an employee, there shall be no deduction of pay on account of absence for a reasonable time. The librarian is held accountable to the Board for the enforcement of scheduled hours and a correct record of absences.

9. The appointment of apprentices and all regular assistants is made by the Board of Trustees to the *general service* and all



definite assignments of work are made by the librarian, being conditioned on the special needs of the various departments as well as the qualifications of the individual. Promotions from year to year and from grade to grade, and all salaries for special positions are determined by action of the Board of Trustees. All advances in salaries depend upon growth and increased efficiency. Seniority, the mere addition of another year to the term of service, does not, in itself, justify an advance in salary; this must depend upon an increase in the value of service rendered as compared with previous service. Length of service unaccompanied by increased efficiency is rather a reason against than in favor of an advance in salary; on the other hand, exceptional efficiency and rapid growth may be recognized by more rapid promotion. In computing salaries for a fraction of a month, twenty-six days is used as the basis.\*

#### STAFF OF THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY TO DATE

##### *Organizer*

Janet M. Green, Chicago.  
Sept. 1, 1900, to Feby. 16, 1901.

##### *Librarians*

Ella L. Smith, Aug. 15, 1900 — July 11, 1905.  
Jane W. Brotherton, Sept. 1, 1905 — Dec. 20, 1909.  
Corinne A. Metz, Dec. 20, 1909 — Mch. 1, 1913.  
Anna L. Holding,† April 7, 1913, to date.

##### *Assistants*

Kathryne Meredith, Loan Department, Nov. 1, 1900 — Oct. 1, 1901.  
Zora L. Smith, County Department, Nov., 1901 — Nov. 11, 1906.  
Florence L. Casto, County Department, Sept. 1, 1902 — Sept. 1, 1907.  
Carrie A. Matthys,† Loan Department, Sept. 1, 1906, to date.  
Ethel McDonald, County Department, Oct. 1, 1907 — Sept. 2, 1909.  
Ella Swartout,† County Department, Jan. 1, 1908, to date.  
Hazel Austin, Loan Department, Oct. 1, 1909 — Dec. 9, 1909.  
Louise Hawley, County School Department, Oct. 1, 1910 — Aug. 1, 1912.  
Ella Bergert Conn,† School Department, Aug. 1, 1912, to date.

\* Free use was made of the Cleveland Library rules relative to apprentices.

† Present staff.

*Apprentices*

Florence Casto, 1901.	Emma Swineford, 1902.
Carrie Matthys, 1903.	Ethel Clark, 1905.
Nancy Crouch, 1905.	Leah Wilson, 1907.
Hazel Austin, 1907.	Ethel McDonald, 1907.
Ella Swartout, 1907.	Grace McConahay, 1908.
Mary Chandler, 1909.	Lucille Cusac, 1910.
Marie Carmody, 1912.	Marcia Clark, 1912.
Ruth Stupp, 1912.	Gertrude McDonald, 1912.

*Janitors*

Nelson W. Hatfield, Dec. 1, 1900 — July 14, 1906.  
Emmett Gamble, \* July 16, 1906 — to date.

\* Present staff.

## CHAPTER X

### THE OPENING OF THE CIRCULATING DEPARTMENT

**D**URING the time which elapsed between the signing of the library contract, July 30, 1898, and the dedication of the library, January 1, 1901, the Trustees, appointed under the provisions of the contract, were at work, preparatory to the day when the library should be opened to the public. At their first meeting, June 2, 1899, they appointed two committees: one to request the County Commissioners to levy a tax of one-half mill for library purposes for the ensuing year, and the other to submit rules and regulations governing trustees, employees, and patrons of the library.

At the next meeting of the Board, held July 11, 1900, it was decided to employ Miss Janet M. Green, of Chicago, a competent library organizer, to catalogue the 1,800 books turned over by the Ladies' Library Association and the 3,000 volumes to be purchased with money realized from the tax levy. She began the work September 1, 1900, and was assisted by Miss Ella Smith, the librarian-elect, who had been the successful candidate in an examination of the several applicants for the position.

On January 1, 1901, the doors of the library were first thrown open to the public, but owing to the fact that Miss Green had been called home by the death of her mother, the circulating department was not put into operation until January 28. In this connection the following press comments are of interest.

Yesterday was a red-letter day for all Van Wert County, since the Brumback Library was opened to the public. The good which will be derived from this institution cannot be

estimated. Although the weather was somewhat disagreeable, nevertheless some of the people of the county, not residing in this town, availed themselves of the opportunity and carried away several volumes. The first borrower's card was made out to Mrs. E. P. Brumback, the widow of the donor of the building. The first book issued to a resident of this city was "The First Flute and Violin," by James L. Allen, which was taken by T. C. Wilkinson. Mr. Yost, of Pleasant Township, was the first person outside of the city of Van Wert to call for a book, which was the "Biggle Berry Book." Up to one o'clock in the afternoon, about two score books had been taken away. "The Redemption of David Corson" and "L'Aiglon" were two of the books which were in greatest demand. A large majority of the books issued up to this time were books of history and travel; there were not so many volumes of fiction borrowed as would have been supposed. The reading and reference rooms had occupants all day long. Children came into the library by the dozen asking for books; they were given blanks, which had to be filled out by their parents. Several of them hurried out after being presented with slips and were back in ten minutes with the blanks filled out in full and waited their turn to get books. The latest magazines, journals and papers of the day are in the reading room, where all may have access to them.—*Van Wert Democrat*, Jan. 29, 1901.

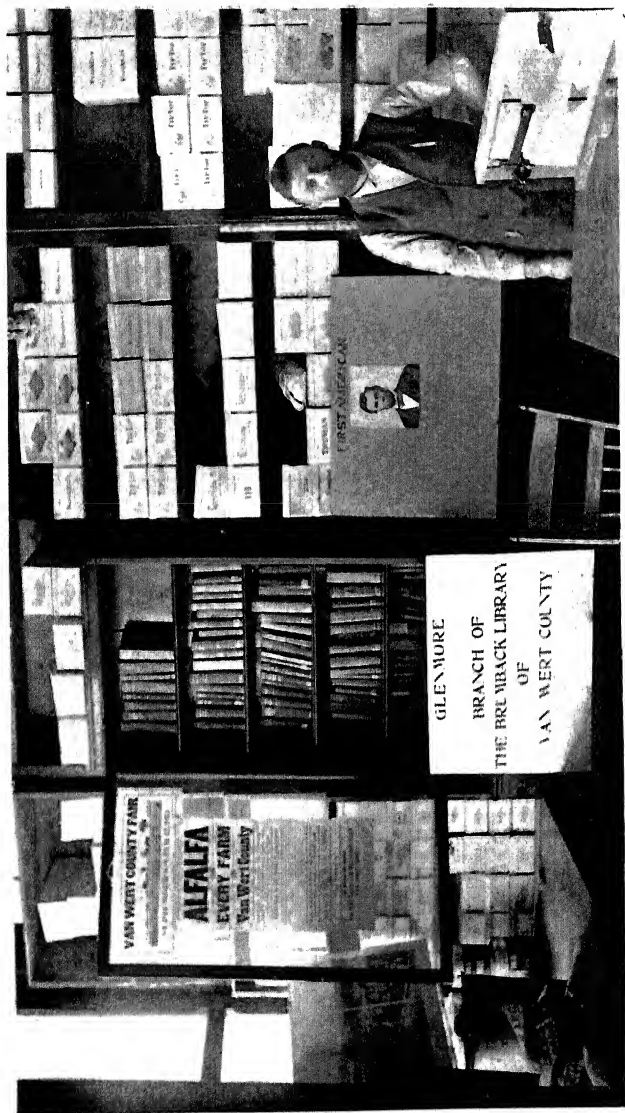
The Van Wert County Public Library is now no more a theme upon which people ponder, nor does it exist merely in thought; it is a reality. Good libraries are of great value to communities and greatly aid in the formation of a better society, and are thus directly a means of better government. We have long since been in need of local libraries, and Harrison Township can boast of at least one school library, which at present contains something like 100 volumes; but a county library means something to us entirely different. Any person in the county is entitled to the use of books if he complies with the rules of the library. We were opposed to the county library in the beginning and gave our reasons. However, since we pay taxes and in this way help to keep up the library we ought to be constantly on the alert and make the Van Wert County Library a success; thus showing to other counties that old Van Wert is now no more a backwoods

settlement, but stands in the front rank of the counties of an enlightened, intelligent commonwealth. Of course we are aware of the fact that country people have to overcome a great many difficulties, but by proper arrangements people from most parts of the county can manage to return the books by the time specified, although it is often very bad getting to town in winter. Now that we have a chance to read matter which we helped to buy, let us one and all embrace the opportunity and show that country people can read to advantage as well as city people, and since we pay most of the county's taxes, let us do most of the county's reading.—*Van Wert Democrat* (Harrison Township Items), Jan. 29, 1901.

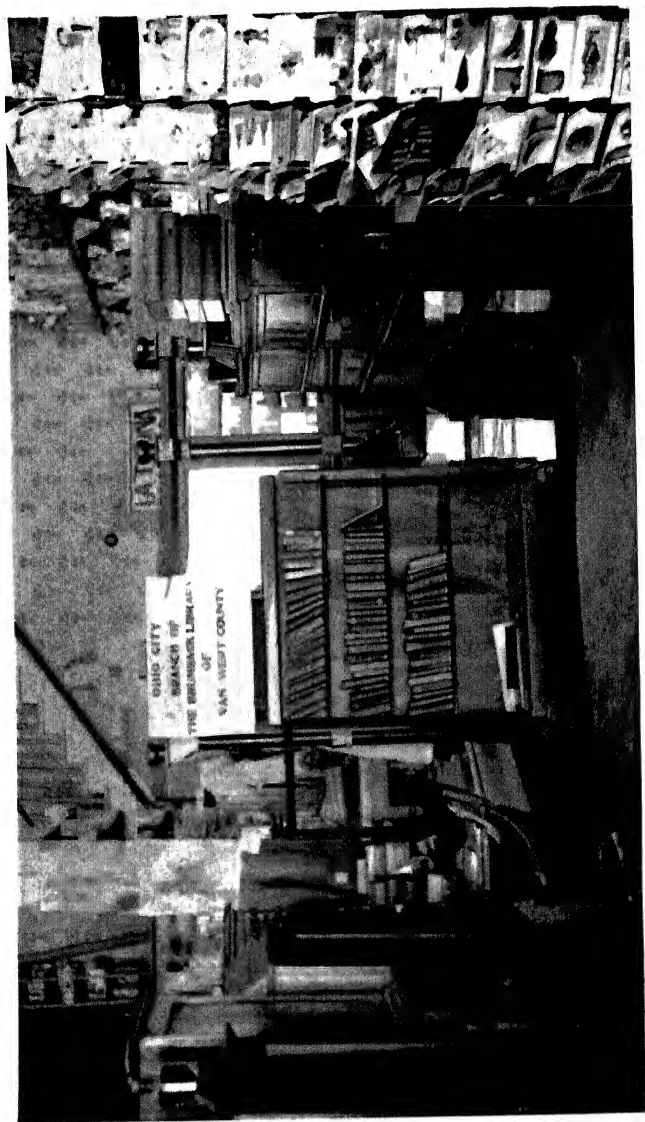
If one were to go down to the Brumback Library and watch the stream of humanity—young and old—entering its portals from morning till night and every day in the week, it seems to us that such a person would feel proud of the town and county in which he lives. To crave and hunger for more knowledge is the best indication that we are making progress.

It has been very gratifying to the management to notice that the country people are just as eager to secure the benefits of the library as the residents of towns and villages. One farmer came in Tuesday morning who had driven eleven miles, and before he left home he had made out a list of books that he wished to read from the lists already published in *The Republican* and *The Times*. He said that he did not want to wait for the establishment of sub-stations. Many have applied for books who had the titles, names of authors and call numbers with them when they came to the building, which indicates that the printed lists are being saved. Up to this morning over 280 volumes have been taken out of the library, which is a remarkably large number for the three days the library has been in running order.—*Van Wert Republican*, Jan. 31, 1901.

When the circulating department of the library was opened a rule was at once put into operation which, though not in the printed rules, was thoroughly understood and enforced. This rule was the *limitation of two borrowers' cards to each family*. The Board made this rule because of



LOCATION OF GLENMORE BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR



LOCATION OF OHIO CITY BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR

the comparatively small number of books then in the library, and because it was their intention to make the books available at once to all the residents of the county. Therefore, to give those living at a greater distance an equal chance with those living in the city of Van Wert it was decided to allow but two books to any one family. The restriction was not removed until 1908, when each person was entitled to a card, with, however, the limitation of two books of fiction in a family. Later, any resident was allowed both a fiction and a non-fiction card. At the present time any resident of eligible age is entitled to a card upon which two books may be drawn, one of which must be non-fiction. In case of any special need a borrower may draw other books on his card.

The general rules relative to the use of the library are as follows:

1. The library shall be open and free to all every week day (excepting New Year's Day, Decoration Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day), from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. The circulating department will be open from 9 A. M. to 8 P. M.

2. Residents of Van Wert County and transient visitors above the age of nine years are entitled to the privileges of the library upon registering their names and residence and signing an agreement to comply with the rules and regulations of the library and upon complying with either of the following conditions:

- a. Giving satisfactory bond in the form prescribed by the Board of Trustees, revocable at the pleasure of the Board.

- b. Depositing three dollars, and, in special cases, such further sums as the value of the book asked for may, in the judgment of the librarian, require. For such deposit a receipt will be given, and money will be returned when all liabilities are satisfied.

3. Money security will be received only where it is impossible to furnish personal security.

4. When bond security is given it must be renewed at least once in three years, or upon the death of the surety or his removal from the county, or if for any reason the committee on circulation consider it insufficient.

[NOTE.—The above requirements relating to guarantor's signature are not generally enforced today.]

5. Non-residents may draw books from the library by com-



plying with the rules for residents, and by paying three dollars annually in advance.

6. Each person entitled to draw books from the library will be supplied with a card, inscribed with his name, residence and register number. This card must be presented whenever a book is taken, returned or renewed. Immediate notice of a change of residence must be given. Neglect to do this may subject the cardholder to a forfeiture of privileges.

7. The registered holder of a card is, in all cases, responsible for books drawn by means of his card, by whomsoever presented, and for all fines and costs accrued on the same.

8. If a card is lost a duplicate will be given on payment of ten cents, or without fee, at the expiration of two weeks. In order to avoid responsibility and to prevent the use of the card by unauthorized persons, notice of its loss must be given immediately to the librarian.

9. Only one volume may be taken on account, unless the work be in two volumes, when, at the discretion of the librarian, two volumes may be taken. Special cards may be issued to teachers allowing them the privilege of drawing a number of volumes for use in the class-room.

[NOTE.—This rule has been changed to allow a borrower two books on his card, provided one is non-fiction. He is also permitted, at the discretion of the librarian, to draw other books when same are needed for special home study. Other special privileges are granted, subject, however, to change.]

10. Books may be retained two weeks, and may be once renewed for the same period. No book shall be re-issued to the same person until it has been on the shelves twenty-four hours. Books may not be taken and returned on the same day. Books of recent purchase, labeled "Seven Day Book," shall not be retained more than one week, and may not be renewed or transferred.

11. Any one withholding a book beyond the period limit in these rules shall be fined two cents for each volume, for each day over time. No one in the same household shall receive another book until the fine is paid.

12. Persons drawing books must examine their cards to see that correct entries are made thereon. After a book has been taken from the library the entry therefor will be conclusively presumed to be correct.

13. Encyclopedias, dictionaries, bound periodicals and other works of reference, elaborately illustrated books, and other volumes

unsuited for general circulation may be used only in the library rooms.

14. Books withheld in violation of the rules, after reasonable notice has been mailed to the delinquent, may be sent for, and to the fine shall be added the expense thereby entailed. No book will be loaned to the delinquent, or member of the same household, until such fines or charges are paid.

15. If any book is not returned within one month after notice is mailed, the librarian may proceed against the borrower and guarantor to collect, by law, the value of the book, with accrued fines and other charges to the date of payment.

16. In computing the time during which a book may be retained, the day on which the book is taken out is not counted, but Sundays, holidays and other days, on which the library may be closed, are always counted, except when such days happen to be the ones on which the count ends, in which case the count shall end at the close of the first day thereafter on which the library may be open.

17. Persons having any form of contagious disease in their residence or families shall not be permitted to draw books from the library. Any person in possession of books belonging to the library and on whose premises contagious diseases exist must report the same to the librarian before returning the books, and then await instructions as to their disposal. No fines will be charged under these circumstances.

18. Books are presumed to be in good condition when issued, and the last borrower shall be held responsible for any mutilation or defacement, unless the same is reported when the book is taken out. All injuries to books, beyond reasonable wear, and all losses must be made good by the borrower, and failure to do so makes the guarantor responsible and may lead to a forfeiture of all privileges to the borrower.

19. All persons above the age of nine years, of respectable character, and of such orderly conduct as not to interfere with the occupation and comfort of others, shall, during all regular hours, have free use of the papers, periodicals and books of the library for consultation in the building. Children under nine years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

20. Conversation and conduct inconsistent with quiet and good order in the library are strictly forbidden. Talking to attendants, except on matters pertaining to the use of the library, is not allowed. No person shall be allowed to converse, lounge, sleep,

partake of refreshments, or use the rooms of the library for any other purpose than that for which they are intended.

21. Persons mutilating or damaging any book, paper or periodical, bound or unbound, either by turning down leaves, cutting, marking, tearing, or in any other way that injures their value, are liable to prosecution under the act passed by the General Assembly of the state of Ohio, entitled "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF INJURY DONE TO NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS IN READING-ROOMS AS FOLLOWS: . That if any person shall intentionally deface, obliterate, tear or destroy, in whole or in part, any newspaper, magazine or periodical on file in any library or other association in this state, or shall cut therefrom any article or advertisement, such person shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined in any sum not exceeding \$100 nor less than \$10, or be imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding thirty days, or both of said punishments, at the discretion of the Court."

22. If any person abuses the privileges of the library by unbecoming conduct, or by violation of any of the regulations, the librarian or assistants shall have power to act summarily in the matter, and, if the case is one of gross offense, cause the offender to be at once excluded from the library, reporting all such cases to the Board of Trustees, who may exclude such person from the library for a time, or permanently, according to the nature and degree of the offense.

23. Patrons of the library who feel aggrieved from any cause are requested to report their grievance to the librarian, who will see that the matter is righted, or will refer it to the Board of Trustees.

24. These rules and regulations, or any of them, may be suspended by the affirmative vote of five members of the full Board of Trustees.

25. Amendments to the rules and regulations shall be referred to the committee on rules and regulations, and shall be reported back by it to the Board of Trustees before action is taken thereon. It shall require a majority vote of the full Board of Trustees to amend or change.

The work of the library will be considered under the three heads: Central Library, Branch Libraries, and Schools.

## CHAPTER XI

### THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

THE work done at the central library in so far as it has to do with the city of Van Wert is very similar to that of the average municipal library; but this is only part of the work, since the central library is headquarters for all the county rural extension service. The routine work of the library is carried on in three distinct departments, with an assistant at the head of each: that of central library proper, that of the county branch libraries and that of the schools of the county (both city and country). In considering the work of the central library, only such special features as may be of interest are given.

No one at the opening of the library had any idea that it would grow and develop so rapidly. Its history is one of expansion in all directions in an endeavor to meet the increasing demands upon it for books and library service of all kinds; and this expansion naturally made necessary more funds, more labor, more working space, more storage accommodations, more library tools, etc. As evidence of this growth, in the first year a new wall-stack was placed in the west reference room; the following year the east room was fitted with wall-stacks for reference collections; also one additional double stack and two wall-stacks were placed in the stack-room; in 1907 the walls of the west reference room were lined with shelving, another double stack was added and the stacks in the book-room were re-arranged, permitting working space at the rear of the room. In the meantime cupboards and shelves with glass doors had been built in a basement room. Later, in another basement room,

the county school collection was placed on rough shelving, while in a third the government documents were temporarily housed. In 1913 a second stack-room was placed over the first floor book-room with the same number of stacks, which almost doubles the shelving capacity of the library.

The stairway leading to the upper stack-room and all shelving and stacks in the library, except those in the basement, are of steel, and the upper stack floor is of glass. The additional shelving permits of a more convenient arrangement of the bound periodicals and makes it possible to set aside a room exclusively for children.

Juvenile books represent 40% to 50% of the total circulation in spite of the fact that the children have not received as much attention as has been desired. They have had a corner of their own and their needs have been as carefully looked after as possible under existing conditions. But now they have the direct supervision of an interested assistant, in a small room of their own, which is filled with their own books. Even this is inadequate for the children, but it may shortly lead to something better, as it is the intention of the Board next to utilize the large and valuable space in the basement in making provision not only for a commodious children's room but also for a meeting-place for county committees, teachers, debate workers and others. This can be made as delightful as any other part of the building, but would require an outlay of considerable money, which will necessitate its postponement for a time owing to the extensive improvements of 1913.

Up to the present time the income of the library has been used largely in establishing, extending and maintaining the service of the library in the county and in providing the necessary equipment of books. In the future, with 25,000 volumes on hand, it will not be necessary to buy books so rapidly. The needs of each department can be more accurately estimated and books bought accordingly.

To a certain extent each library must needs be a law unto itself. A university library must be large and well adapted to take care of all kinds of research work, a city library must be prepared to meet the varied demands of a cosmopolitan people representing innumerable phases of city activity. The mission of the county library is neither of these. Accordingly, the policy for the future will not be to build up a great library of books (although the time will soon come when there will be as many books as there are people in the county), but rather to secure a moderate-sized library and to keep it such, a library that can be properly cared for and yet amply large to provide for the county work easily, successfully and without handicap. To make the library most effective it is necessary that a sufficient sum be expended annually to keep the collection in good working order by a system of elimination, substitution and renewal. In other words, it would seem advisable, after having built up a working library of books fairly adequate to the service expected of it, to expend more of the library's income in getting the most use and good out of these books. Money spent for books to remain in idleness is ill spent; but when it takes them to the people or brings the people to them, it is well spent. Persuaded by this system of reasoning, the Board may feel justified ere long in using, if necessary, some of the book fund each year wherewith to equip the basement for the good of the library patrons and to attract other patrons.

Because the work of the several departments of the library in connection with the county extension service is done at the central library, the general public does not have access to the main stacks, but access is given special workers, such as teachers, ministers or others seeking the privilege for particular reasons. However, changing and varied collections are always to be found in special cases in the reading-room. In 1904 and again in 1908 the rotation plan was

used. In order that the patrons of the library might have an opportunity to examine all the books on the shelves, a section of books from each class was placed periodically in the display case holding 200 volumes and located at the right of the delivery desk. This was continued until the entire collection had been reviewed. Other general collections placed in the reading-room are selected from various lists of best books. Here are also to be found special collections on timely subjects of interest to the general public.

In the course of time, it became the custom among certain cliques to monopolize the popular books of fiction. To break this up, in 1906 the postal reserve system was inaugurated by which anyone could have a book held for him on registering his name and depositing a cent to cover cost of notification. Six hundred and forty-seven took advantage of this the first year.

In 1911, in addition to a borrower's card allowing the holder to draw two books, one non-fiction, as well as other books for special work, another special privilege was granted. This permits library borrowers who leave home for an extended stay during the summer months to draw five books other than seven-day books, which may be retained without renewal until October 1, after which a fine of two cents a day accrues on each book.

The city of Van Wert has a remarkable number of clubs and other organizations. The library has always aimed to serve the book needs of all these. To do this more effectually a clipping collection was started in 1910. Moreover, in 1913 the accumulated material for a picture collection was assembled, catalogued and made available for use. At times shelves have been reserved for the books in use by the clubs, and assistance is always given, when desired, in making programmes based on the library collection.

In 1910 the library passed through an experience which it is hoped will not soon be repeated, when small-pox assumed

the proportions of a mild epidemic in Van Wert City and some parts of the county. The library took steps immediately to use every precaution to prevent any possible spread of the contagion through the library books. The station at Elgin was closed for a month owing to the prevalence of the disease in that locality. Although the central library was not closed at any time, no effort was made to increase the use of the books. Daily communication with the health officer was maintained and any books which were in homes where there was known to be infection were burned. Each day's return of books over the desk was thoroughly fumigated, as were all those returned from the county. This fumigation continued from March 3 to April 26. The fact that no one in the library has ever contracted any form of contagious disease, which seems to be the experience of other libraries, would indicate that the danger of infection from library books is slight.

One of the pleasing events in the history of the library was a lecture at the library by Miss Edna Lyman, of Oak Park, Illinois, on the subject of "The Listening Child." Teachers of the county and town schools and Sunday schools and all other interested persons were invited to be present. Another treat of a similar nature was afforded both adults and children during the summer of 1913 at the Chautauqua in the sessions conducted by Miss Georgene Faulkner, "The Story Lady." At one of the Chautauqua sessions for teachers the librarian was invited to give a talk on children's books. Such opportunities are gladly embraced, as they aid in disseminating a knowledge of the library's resources. Other speakers at the Chautauqua said a good word concerning the usefulness of the Brumback Library to the county. The sentiment of the librarian in her fourth annual report is heartily to be endorsed. "Much good has been done by the timely word spoken by those who come among us as strangers; notably by the instructors of



the different farmers' and teachers' institutes held in the county. Often a word spoken at the right moment by a wholly disinterested person carries more weight than all that can be said by those closely connected with an institution and presumably personally interested in its success; and to those we gratefully acknowledge our debt of gratitude." Another pleasing Chautauqua incident of special interest to the library was the planting, by special request, of two elm trees in the library park by Ex-Gov. J. Frank Hanley and Congressman Richmond Pearson Hobson, whose famous debate on the question, "Should the nations of the earth disarm," was the chief Chautauqua attraction for 1913. At five o'clock on the afternoon of July 31, after preparations for planting the trees had been made, Ex-Gov. Hanley said, "I plant this tree in the name of fraternity and peace" and Congressman Hobson said, "I plant this tree in the name of fraternity and peace and in the hope that it will receive all the protection necessary during its young life."

Some of the special work done by the central library has been that of preparing suggestive book lists on various subjects. A few of the lists are as follows: Some of the best books of each year compiled by the New York State Library; Recent books on agriculture (frequent lists of these); College stories for girls; Legal novels; Book notice calling attention to the set of books entitled "Modern Medicine," compiled by Dr. Edward William Osler (recommended for purchase by the Van Wert County Medical Association); Books on kindness to animals (by request of the local Humane Society); Books for the Ohio Teachers' Reading Circle; Books for Sunday school workers; Books of interest to business men; Book notice of "Reminiscences" by Carl Schurz, whom Van Wert had the honor to entertain; Books on the drama; Books on corn growing; Books for parents and teachers; Novels of the American Revolution for the

D. A. R.; Books on Woman's Suffrage; Books of interest to housekeepers; Books for children, etc. Brief lists on special and timely subjects were also prepared and printed each week in the daily papers, and copies of these were run off for distribution. This plan was so successfully carried out for some time that it will again be put into operation.

Free use has been made of bulletin boards with the object of attracting attention to special days and events of the year and to books on particular subjects. Occasional exhibits are also made, a few of which are herewith mentioned. An exhibit on home economics was made in 1908 when Van Wert was becoming interested in domestic science and manual training for the public schools. A large new high school building has now a complete equipment for these departments. A book-binding display from the Newark, N. J., public library attracted many people to the reading-room. Books were shown in the various stages of binding, together with one hundred or more mounts containing samples of the materials used in book-binding. Attractive pictures illustrating the uniforms of the army were presented to the library by the War Department and placed on exhibition. Another collection of pictures showing the use and protection of our national forests, loaned to the library for a limited period by the United States Forest Service Bureau at Washington, was displayed to the public. Both of these collections were of general interest. Exhibits of books for Christmas gifts are made annually, together with other suggestive Christmas features.

In this connection, it might be added that a clearing-house of suitable library exhibits having to do with the arts and trades, which would loan such exhibits at a reasonable rental, would be a boon to many libraries. Or, if loans of various kinds are available from any one source at the present time, let it be made more generally known to libraries of towns and cities which do not have the advantage of

art museums. There has lately been some general discussion in the Library Journal as to how the American Library Association might become more serviceable. Would it be out of keeping to suggest here that in addition to its present helpful work some such work as this along more general lines might lie within the province of the A. L. A.? If it were to do specific work of this kind whereby the smaller libraries would be strengthened, this would be an added inducement to them to seek membership in the National Association and there would be mutual helpfulness.

Mr. Percy F. Bicknell, a distinguished literary critic, has the following to say of the eleventh annual report of the Brumback Library:

A county library in Ohio, founded eleven years ago, considerably in advance of the now famous California county library system, issues its annual report in a readable pamphlet entitled "The Brumback Library of Van Wert County." Especially notable in this eleventh annual record of progress is the largeness of result as compared with the smallness of outlay. At an expense of only seven thousand dollars (or \$7,013.64, to be exact,) the activities of the central library at Van Wert and of its fifteen branch stations and school libraries have gone on for a year. It is true that the entire county numbers less than 30,000 inhabitants, but even so the maintenance of so good a library service (including purchase of new books and payment of all other expenses) at so small a cost to those served is worthy of note. The Van Wert library workers deserve, of course, more generous financial support.\*

\* *The Dial*, July 16, 1912.

## CHAPTER XII

### THE BRANCH LIBRARIES

1901

THE Board at their first meeting after the opening of the library turned their attention to the matter of the extension of library privileges to the rural districts. They realized that it was desirable to make the library of value to the entire county by wide-spread library service and thus eliminate possible criticism of its work. They considered it just and right that special attention should be shown those who, living at a distance from Van Wert, could not have immediate access to the library's resources. Since the people in all cases could not come to the library for books, it only remained for the books to be sent to the people. In pursuance of this policy, the Board at once began to consider plans. Having no precedent or model to follow in this rural extension library service they could only proceed experimentally.

The town of Willshire as one of the most remote points in the county was the first to receive a collection of books. This was fitting for another reason, since Willshire Township was the first part of the county to be settled and the town Willshire was the first county-seat. Accordingly, on February 19, 1901, about one hundred books were sent to the hardware store of Hurless and Brown, where, placed in a neat book-case, they were cared for by Ellsworth Brown. Willshire at present has a population of 653 and lies eighteen miles southwest of Van Wert. It has no direct connection by railroad. The Clover Leaf Railroad

passes through it and books are shipped to the station with a change of cars. Visits are made to the branch by automobile.

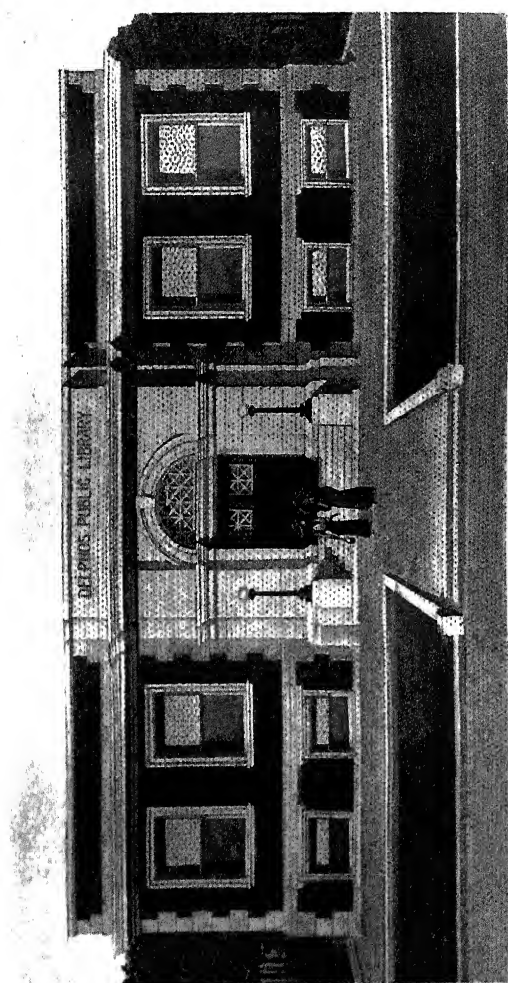
Saturday was the opening day of the Willshire Branch of the Brumback Library. We made a visit to the Hurless and Brown hardware store, where the library is located, and found that the library contained 105 up-to-date and educational books. Twenty-five of our young people availed themselves of the books. Willshire has long needed a library of this kind and is well pleased with its branch library, which will be open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The only drawback now is that many found the books so interesting that they soon read them and could get no more until Tuesday. The young men and women of Willshire feel that they owe a debt of gratitude to the Brumback heirs.—*Van Wert Republican*, Feb. 28, 1901.

The present location of the branch is the drug store of W. W. Parks, who gives it interested attention.

And now followed the establishment of branches as quickly as satisfactory arrangements could be made. March 7, 1901, fifty books were sent to Ohio City, Liberty Township, and located in the drug store of J. A. Swoveland. Ohio City has a population of 860 and lies eight miles south of Van Wert on the Erie, Clover Leaf, and Cincinnati Northern railroads, the last of which connects it with Van Wert.

Notwithstanding the fact that our original T ——— opposed the Brumback Library movement somewhat, we should like to have a branch library established in Ohio City as soon as possible. Good books are the best of companions and our young people would greatly appreciate the opportunity to read them. Other towns in the county are hustling to get their sub-stations started and it is high time that we should share in the benefits as well as in the expense.—*Van Wert Bulletin* (Ohio City Items), March 15, 1901.

March 11, 1901, fifty volumes were placed in the drug store of B. F. Leslie, at Convoy, Tully Township. Convoy



THE DELPHOS PUBLIC LIBRARY



LOCATION OF VENEDOCIA BRANCH LIBRARY. INTERIOR

has a population of 741 and is located eight miles west of Van Wert on the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Ohio Electric Traction Line, both of which connect it with Van Wert. From its establishment to the present time the branch has remained with Mr. Leslie, and for six consecutive years, beginning with 1908, it has led the circulation of all the branches.

Fifty books were sent March 12, 1901, to Middlepoint, Washington Township, where H. A. Mohler took charge of them in his drug store. The branch remains in this location at the present time. Middlepoint has a population of 607 and is located eight miles east of Van Wert on the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Ohio Electric Traction Line.

March 14, 1901, there were placed one hundred books in the law office of Judge B. J. Brotherton, of Delphos, which were cared for by his daughter, Miss Jane Brotherton, and later by other members of the family. It remained in this location until April, 1913, when it was transferred to the new public library. Delphos has a population of 5,038, 2,482 of whom live in Van Wert County and the remainder in Allen County. The city is about fourteen miles east of Van Wert and is connected with it by the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Ohio Electric Traction Line. The following article from the *Delphos Courier* of May 8, 1901, is of interest, giving, as it does, a list of one of the first county collections:

Miss Jennie Brotherton in charge of the Delphos Delivery Station of the Brumback Library has kindly furnished us with the following list of the books now here. Over fifty cards have been taken out for the privilege already. Our readers should file this list away, since it will be found a convenience in the use of the library. The station is at the law office of Judge Brotherton and will be open on Tuesdays from 2 to 5 P. M., and on Saturdays from 9 A. M. to 12 M. As Miss Brotherton is serving without any compensation, the public should be as considerate in the observance of the rules as possible.



Portrait of a Lady, Henry James; We All, Octave Thanet; The Golden Age in Transylvania, Maurus Jokai; Gustav Adolf, Topelius; The Regent's Daughter, Alexander Dumas; The Chevalier D'Harmental, Alexander Dumas; The Sowers, H. Seton Merriman; A Humble Romance, Mary E. Wilkins; Three Men on Wheels, Jerome K. Jerome; Pudd'nhead Wilson, Mark Twain; Stalky & Co., Rudyard Kipling; The Bicyclers and Three Other Farces, J. K. Bangs; The Sleeping Car and Other Farces, W. D. Howells; The King's Henchman, W. H. Johnson; History of Pendennis, W. M. Thackeray; Ninety-Three, Victor Hugo; The Monastery, The Abbot, Walter Scott; Rienzi, Bulwer; The Pilgrims of the Rhine, Bulwer; An Independent Daughter, Amy Blanchard; In Vain, H. Sienkiewicz; Uncle Remus and His Sayings, J. C. Harris; The Premier and the Painter, Israel Zangwill; Alice of Old Vincennes, Maurice Thompson; The Redemption of David Corson, Charles F. Goss; L'Aiglon, English Translation; Richard, Yea and Nay, Maurice Hewlitt; Eben Holden, I. Bacheller; Bits of Travel at Home, H. H. Jackson; An American Girl in London, Mrs. E. Cotes; Old England, James M. Hoppin; Excursions, H. D. Thoreau; Walden, H. D. Thoreau; In the Dozy Hours, Agnes Repplier; Essays on Work and Culture, Hamilton W. Mabie; Representative Men, R. W. Emerson; John Gabriel Borkman, Henrik Ibsen; The Aztecs, Biart; Primitive Industry, C. C. Abbot; Stories from the Greek Tragedies, Church; Greek Gods, Heroes and Men, Harding; The Story of the Nations (Mexico), Hale; The Conspiracy of Pontiac (2 vols.), Parkman; Boys of 1812, James E. Soley; History of Romulus, John Abbott; History of Louis the Fourteenth, John Abbott; History of Louis Philippe, John Abbott; Richelieu, Richard Dodge; The French War and the Revolution, Sloan; Twelve Naval Captains, Sewell; Czar and Sultan, Archibald Forbes; Kit Carson, Abbott; The Evolution of Christianity, Lyman Abbott; Origin of Religion, F. Max Müller; Darwinism and Other Essays, John Fiske; A Popular History of Music, Matthews; What is Good Music, Henderson; The Standard Operas, Upton; Love Songs of Childhood, Eugene Field; Open Sesame (3 vols.), compiled by Bellamy and Goodwin; Electricity in Modern Life, C. W. de Tunzelman; The Story of Architecture, Matthews; History of Ancient Art, Reber; History of Mediaeval Art, Reber; European Schools, Klem; Jimty and Others, M. S. Brisco; Two Prisoners, Thomas N. Page; Boys of Scrooby; The Red Fairy Book, Andrew Lang; The Story Hour, Kate D. Wiggin; The Hero of Manila, Johnson; The Young Me-

chanic, James Lukin; Historic Boys, E. S. Brooks; Against Heavy Odds, H. H. Boyeson; The Swordmaker's Son; Child of Tuscany, M. Bouvet; Ranald Bannerman's Boyhood, Geo. MacDonald; Arabian Nights, Andrew Lang; Dorothy Deane; Jolly Good Times; Stories for Boys, Richard Harding Davis; Little Royal Highness, Ogden; Tales of the Enchanted Islands of the Atlantic, T. W. Higginson; Wee Dorothy, Updegraff; Eye-spy, William H. Gibson; Every Day Butterflies, Samuel H. Scudder; Short Stories of our Shy Neighbors, Kelly; Little Beasts of Field and Wood, Cram; The Insect World, Weed; The First Book of Birds, Miller; In Bird Land, Keyser; Bird Studies with a Camera, Chapman; A Guide to the Trees, Alice Lounsberry; Tales from Shakespeare, Lamb; American Indians, Starr.

Since half of the city of Delphos lies in Van Wert County and the other half in Allen County, the question arose as to whether those living in the Allen County half of Delphos but who paid taxes on property in Van Wert County might have the use of the books in the Delphos branch of the Brumback Library. Subsequently the question came up in the case of other towns in the county, one of which, Scott, lies half in Van Wert County and half in Paulding County, and another of which, Dixon, lies half in Van Wert County and half in Indiana. In each case the ruling that the library is free to all residents, those having their actual abode within the county, has been adhered to. It is quite evident that any other arrangement would result in many complications. However, the annual fee for non-residents was reduced from five to three dollars, making it possible for a non-resident, for the price of a popular magazine, to enjoy all the privileges of the county library. A few living in adjoining counties have made use of the county stations on payment of this fee.

A branch was established at Venedocia, York Township, May 17, 1901, in the hardware store of Jones and Jones. Venedocia has a population of 247 and is located eleven miles from Van Wert in the southeastern portion of the

county. The Clover Leaf Railroad passes through the town, and books are sent to the station with one change. This town is a Welsh settlement and noted for the sweet singing of its people. Its male choruses have carried away prizes in a number of Eisteddfodau and received honorable mention in national and international contests. Since 1903, this branch has been in the store of D. J. Evans, postmaster.

Dasie, Harrison Township, is a trading-center, not being an incorporated town. Here a branch was established May 25, 1901, and placed in the general store of L. B. Springer, who has had charge of it to the present time. Dasie has no railroad or traction line facilities and has communication with Van Wert only by wagon road. It lies ten miles southwest of the county-seat and its boxes of books are carried back and forth by the proprietor of the store, who makes regular trips to Van Wert in connection with his business. He is allowed transportation charges. Many of the men from the surrounding country congregate in this store during the winter evenings to talk and read books.

Cavett, Union Township, is also only a trading-center, not being an incorporated town. A branch was established here June 3, 1901, and was placed in charge of W. M. Hoaglin, postmaster and proprietor of a general store. The place is on the Cincinnati Northern Railroad, which connects it with Van Wert, and lies about five miles north of the county-seat. In 1910, C. L. Gordon purchased the store and assumed charge of the branch.

Not until this time did the Board reach a conclusion as to the proper remuneration for those in charge of the branches. Many were glad, without recompense, to have these libraries in their places of business, prompted by the generous motive of assisting in the good work, though at the same time they realized that the books would be an inducement to bring customers to their stores. On the other hand, the Board, appreciative of the fact that there would

be some duties connected with the care of the branches on the part of those assuming charge of them, felt that the custodians were entitled to some remuneration; and if they were paid a nominal sum a few necessary requirements could be more freely exacted of them. Consequently the Board decided to pay each custodian of a branch \$50 a year in semi-annual payments.

It has been suggested, since the work of the branches varies, being more in some cases, less in others, that the branch librarians be paid according to the circulation of their respective branches. There are serious objections to this plan. It would be difficult to put it into practical operation, and, besides, it is opposed to the real spirit of the work. The keynote of the county work has been and is today the cultivation of virgin soil in the extension of library service. The only justification for the existence of a county library at all is that it may reach the rural population as well as the residents of towns and cities. The circulation of books at a cross-roads center, while comparatively small, is just as important as the circulation of books in a town. The branch librarian who seeks to render library service to those living in less accessible territory is just as worthy of remuneration as the branch librarian whose efforts more easily meet with success because of a larger and more compact constituency. It is always most gratifying to have a large circulation, and the efforts that produce it are to be commended; nor is it desired to minimize the importance of statistics, since they are in a great measure indicative of the work done. But often the best work of the library cannot be expressed in figures. That feature which commends the work of the county library is not the number of books which circulate, but to what extent are the people, hitherto deprived of library privileges, reached and influenced by library service.

As illustrative of this thought, the following incident is given, which was recently told the librarian in her round of

visits to the county stations by a branch librarian in charge of a station near the foot of the list because of its small circulation. He said a boy who some time ago chanced to read one of "our books" on electricity became so interested that he returned for another, and, as there happened to be three books on electricity in that collection, he took them all in turn and then begged his father to send him away to school. The father did so and the young man is doing well now in the electrical business in one of the larger towns of the county. Even one such case is well worth the labor expended, and since this incident is only one of many the value of the work can be more truly estimated. If by reason of inspiring books the young people of the country districts arrive at a knowledge of the true values of life, and if, by timely books, they are led to know for what they are best adapted, the library has fulfilled its mission.

It is the aim of the county library to aid those living in the country to appreciate the wonderful opportunities for pleasure and profit that lie within the "Home Acre" or the "Home Ten Acres" or the "Home Farm." The time has arrived when farming is looked upon as a science and when the raising of farm standards will help solve many of the problems of the day. However, all young men in the country are not fitted for farming any more than all ministers' sons are fitted to become ministers. It is said of a certain man that he spoiled a good preacher to become a poor business man. In the above incident the boy whose bent was electricity "found himself" through a library book.

The policy of the library has always been not so much to make records in circulation as to place books where they will do the most good. In view of this, the Board have not yet seen fit to change from a uniform remuneration of the branch librarians to a sliding scale of remuneration based on circulation. It is not their desire to place a premium on circulation so much as to place a premium on helpful service.

In the management of the county work existing conditions determine the best policy to pursue. Future conditions may result in changes along various lines.

The branch at Hutchinson, Union Township, was established December 31, 1901, in the general store of C. L. Gordon. This is a trading-center, eight miles northwest of Van Wert, and is reached only by wagon road. The branch was maintained until August 1, 1909, when it was closed, other branches having been placed in the vicinity.

During this first year, as the number of branches increased, with numerous requests being made for others, it became evident that to avoid confusion some system must be devised to carry on the county work successfully. One thousand books were purchased for the branch libraries' department. Owing to the pressure of work on all sides nothing more than necessary was done to these books. They were collated, pocketed, accessioned, and stamped with their accession numbers, and were then sent out in lots of a hundred to each station.

According to the first plan each station, after keeping its 100 books two months, was to send them on to one of the other stations, at the same time receiving a second 100 books from one of its neighbors to take their place. The books would thus pass from station to station until each branch had had the thousand books, when they would be returned to the central library, and there shelf-listed, catalogued and placed on the shelves. In the meantime another thousand or more would be purchased and made ready to repeat the experiment of the first thousand. Fortunately the unwisdom of this rotation plan was discovered before it was put into practice. Unwise, because of possible failures on the part of inexperienced branch librarians to make the exchange of boxes of books on schedule time; because of the impossibility of getting proper statistics, since there would be no one to look after the repair of the books and

to see that each book was forwarded with its collection; and because of the length of time (two months at each station would be one year and eight months) that the books would be removed from the supervision and inspection of the central library, which might result in the loss of books and general confusion.

The plan adopted was that of having each branch librarian return his collection to the central library, whence it was sent on to its next place as scheduled.\*

Since it required much thought, effort and time to get the library as a whole in running order, extension work could not be given the desired attention the first year. However, a good beginning had been made, 2,800 volumes having been sent to the nine branches established during the year: 400 books to each of the four branches — Willshire, Convoys, Delphos and Cavett; 300 to each of the three branches — Middlepoint, Ohio City and Venedocia; 200 to Dasie, and 100 to Hutchinson. Unfortunately no statistics of the circulation through the branches could be gathered the first year, but the keeping of records and the sending of monthly reports of their work to the central library have been required of the branch librarians ever since.

In considering what was done or left undone, it must be remembered that there was as yet a very small library of books to serve a large constituency. The following quotations from the Van Wert papers give an idea as to the attitude of the home people toward the library after its first year of operation.

One year ago yesterday, Van Wert County's temple of knowledge — the Brumback County Library — for the first time opened its doors to the public. True it seems but yesterday that we stood in the throng of happy, grateful people, who had gathered to help dedicate the library, the pride of every citizen of the county; yet since that time who can estimate the work done and the good accomplished? The more we review

\* This plan is given in detail, see pp. 169-181.

the achievements of the past twelve months the harder seems the task of giving the institution due credit for what it has done.

When the doors of the library opened a year ago, there were 4,500 books on the shelves. During the year 2,250 books have been added, making a total of 6,750 books in the library at the present time. Pretty good library, is it not? Better still, it is accessible to every boy and girl in the county, rich and poor. In the central library the average circulation for the past month has been one hundred and seven a day. Saturday is always a banner day, as many of the farmers of the surrounding country come in on that day for their books. The records for the past two Saturdays of books taken or exchanged are 217 and 220 respectively. We cannot enter into the many pleasant features of the past year's work, but will give one incident to show that after all much depends on the men and women of the community surrounding the sub-stations as to the demand for books and the class of books read. At Ohio City it has been observed for some time that the greatest demand was for juvenile books of the highest character. Nothing but the very best literature was wanted. The secret of this was learned when it was ascertained that one of the lady teachers in the public schools of that town had organized a society consisting mainly of the members of her class and that they had taken a pledge, one requirement of which was to read only the best books. Thus, her influence on the minds of the children under her care was great. This is an example that should be followed by every parent and teacher in the county.—*Van Wert Republican*, January, 1902.

The first annual report of the Brumback Library has been published and carefully read by the thoughtful citizens of Van Wert County. The showing it makes is pleasing to every person who is interested in the educational and literary advancement of the people and justifies the strong stand the friends of the library have taken in favor of a liberal, substantial provision for its support and rewards them for the work they have voluntarily done, without pecuniary return, for its success. It is the first county library in the United States, and where there was a division of opinion before the experiment was tried, all agree now that John Sanford Brumback was wiser than he knew when he donated this magnificent gift to



the citizens of Van Wert County. Thousands of books have been circulated, free of cost to the patrons. The Brumback Library is no longer an experiment. Its possibilities are almost without limit.—*Van Wert Times*, January, 1902.

The first year of the Brumback Public Library has endeared it to the hearts of the people. One year ago today a gift of a public-spirited citizen, an institution rich in educational advantages, was dedicated to Van Wert County. The record of the first year of the operation of the Brumback Library and its branches is a compliment to both its donor and the people upon whom it was bestowed. John S. Brumback's highest expectations have been fulfilled. The library, popular with the masses, the pride of the town and county, is gradually growing in favor with the few who opposed the plan adopted for its maintenance.—*Van Wert Bulletin*, January, 1902.

To quote again from Mr. C. B. Galbreath:

. . . Ohio has recently contributed to the library cause some features that are unique, original and worthy of imitation. The county library . . . has become a reality. The plan is on trial and reference to the sketches of the Cincinnati Public Library and the Brumback Library of Van Wert County cannot fail to convince the reader that the plan is a demonstrated success and inspire the hope that an important step has been taken toward the solution of the library problem. It is encouraging, in this connection, to note that very recently a county library law, including among its provisions practically all of the features of the act which made the Brumback Library possible, has been enacted in one of our most progressive states. [Reference is made to Wisconsin]. Someone has said that in educational matters Ohio is a good follower. In the county library movement she bids fair to lead.\*

On January 16, 1901, an article by E. I. Antrim, entitled "Library Privileges for Rural Districts," appeared in *The Dial*, of Chicago. Another article by the same author, entitled "Latest Stage in Library Development," appeared in the *New York Forum*, of May, 1901. This last article, which told of the work and ideals of the Brumback Library

\* "Sketches of Ohio Libraries," C. B. Galbreath.



LOCATION OF ELGIN BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR



LOCATION OF WILLSHIRE BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR

of Van Wert County, was quoted at some length in the *Literary Digest* of June 8, 1901; in the *Minneapolis Times*, of May 14, 1901; in the *Racine* (Wisconsin) *Times*, of May 15, 1901, and in the *Commoner*, of Lincoln, Nebraska, of June, 1901. These and other references indicate that the idea of a movement for making "life on the farm happier, better and sweeter," thereby counteracting the migration from country to city, was fast taking root in the popular mind. In this connection it is interesting to add that Wisconsin passed a county library law in 1901, Minnesota in 1905, and Nebraska in 1911. The following article appeared in the *Minneapolis Times* and the *Racine Times*.

In the last *Forum* there is an account of a new development in the library system which suggests a possibility for farm life. A good many years ago New York started the old district school libraries, which had a few of the same features as this method, but in a crude and unsystematic way. The old way left too much to the individual; but the Brumback Library of Van Wert County, Ohio, takes its books almost to the farm itself.

The especial fitness of such a system either to a semi-rural community or to the more widely scattered farming communities of the west is easily seen. By care in the selection of books for the particular needs and conditions of the locality, such a library cannot only promote intellectual, but social and business interests. It has a power of adaptability about it which makes it flexible to the general tastes of the surrounding population. With telephones, trolley lines, free postal delivery and a circulating library, of which it practically dictates the management, the farming community has the world for its neighbor.

1902

The branch libraries as located in 1901 were fairly well distributed over the county except in the northeastern part. Hence, steps were at once taken with the opening of the new year to care for this territory. Accordingly, January

8, 1902, a branch was established in Jackson Township at the office of Dr. John Wolfe, of Wetsel, a trading-center located fourteen miles northeast of Van Wert. Books were taken to and from the station in a covered wagon by the proprietor of a neighboring general store, who makes frequent trips to Van Wert for merchandise and who is paid one dollar and a half a round trip for the transportation of the boxes of books. When Dr. Wolfe moved away in 1909, the branch was transferred to a general store, where it is now in charge of the proprietor, C. Ditto.

A branch was located at Glenmore, Willshire Township, July 25, 1902, in the store of L. S. Cully, with James R. Conn in charge. Glenmore is a small trading-center through which passes the Erie Railroad, and is located ten miles southwest of Van Wert. In 1911, C. F. Germann became proprietor of the store and is an excellent branch librarian.

In the southeastern corner of the county, in Jennings Township, at the intersection of six wagon roads, is a small trading-center called Converse, also known as Five Points. There is one store here called the Farmers' Grocery. This was deemed a good distributing point; therefore, August 12, 1902, a branch was placed in this store in charge of the proprietor, R. W. Hance, and has remained in his care to date. Converse is sixteen miles from Van Wert by wagon road. Books are sent to the station *via* the Erie Railroad to Elgin, three miles distant, whence they are hauled to and fro by wagon.

In February, 1902, the Board planned to have the branch librarians meet with the library board and staff at the central library to discuss matters pertaining to the work of the branches. But, owing to the fact that this is a busy time of the year, the meeting was postponed to a later date. Branch librarians were urged to keep during this year statistics of circulation, yet the end of the year revealed the regrettable fact that complete records of the branch circula-

tion had not been kept. This was due to several causes: the inexperience of those in charge of the stations; the press of work at the central library, which prevented many visits to the branches; and the difficulty of explaining by letter just what was desired. It may have been due, too, in a large measure, to the inadequate methods used by the branch librarians in keeping their records. The following year special book cards were provided for the purpose, which simplified the work and from which the record of the circulation of the branches can be easily gathered. These cards also enable the county assistant to know the classes of books circulated.

Owing to the growing needs and demands of the branches, an assistant, Miss Zora Smith, was placed at the head of this work, which now assumed the dignity of a separate department. Fifteen hundred new books purchased for the branches were being made ready to replace those in the county when the latter should finally be returned to the central library. This time a separate shelf list of the books was prepared, to be consulted for information concerning the books in the county. Besides, an additional small collection was set aside as "county reserve books," to be drawn upon in replacing books of the county collections sent to the bindery or books which occasionally fail to come in with the collections. A schedule of dates for the exchange of the collections was sent to each of the branches and thereafter a box of books remained at each station three instead of two months. The task of the second year consisted largely in placing on a more systematic basis the work begun in the first year. It remained for the third year to see some special effort made for the welfare of the branches and the encouragement of their growth.

The librarian, Miss Ella Smith, in her second annual report says: "Two years is a very brief space of time in the life of a public institution. The library has not yet

passed its formative stage and to those who view its workings from without there must appear imperfections in its methods of operation. Only those who see from within can know of the difficulties met and overcome, of the problems solved and of the many more yet awaiting solution."

### 1903

In the beginning of the third year a request of long standing from Scott for a branch library was granted. Action had been delayed owing to the close proximity of the Cavett branch, which is less than three miles from Scott, and because half of Scott lies in Paulding County. February 10, 1903, a branch was located in the Fasig drug store of Scott, with Mrs. Alice Reeb as the very efficient custodian. If a branch librarian is sufficiently interested to do some personal work in connection with the duties attendant upon the care of the books, his or her efforts meet with ready response and pleasing results. The wave line of progress at a branch flows up or down in accordance with the interest or neglect of the branch librarian in charge. The work done at Scott has been of a high character. It is located in Union Township, about eight miles north of Van Wert, on the Cincinnati Northern Railroad, and has a population of 472, of whom 279 are in Van Wert County. The branch today is under the interested supervision of W. F. Leidy, who purchased the drug store and became branch librarian in 1909.

February 13, 1903, Dixon, located in Tully Township, on the Ohio-Indiana state line, received a branch library, which was placed in the general store of Charles Hoeken, who also has the post office. Dixon is fourteen miles west of Van Wert on the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Ohio Electric Traction Line and is an unincorporated village. A branch is desirable at this point to permit of books being

made accessible to the residents of the western border of the county.

A branch was established at Wren, Willshire Township, February 13, 1903, in the Swoveland drug store, with Mrs. Alice Swoveland acting as librarian. A fire at this location necessitated the removal of the branch to the telephone exchange in an upstairs room. Owing to the inconvenience of this new location, recently another change was made, by which the books were placed in the general store of Dudley and Dull, with Mrs. Dull as the branch librarian. With a population of 277 Wren promises to be one of the leading county library stations. It is situated on the C. & E. Railroad and is fourteen miles from Van Wert.

To facilitate and make clear the work of the branches, about this time rules governing the branch librarians and for the guidance of those using the branches were prepared and distributed.\* With the idea, too, of giving to the people in the rural communities as well as to the residents of the towns a better knowledge of the varied resources of the library, lists of books on special subjects were widely scattered. For example, lists of books on agricultural subjects were sent to farmers' institutes. In some instances the books themselves were sent for review by those present.

Besides the regular collections sent to the stations every three months, it was found necessary in some cases to send additional volumes in order adequately to meet the demands of the borrowers. Furthermore, some requests now for the first time began to come in from the branches for special books for the use of literary clubs, and were in all cases complied with by the librarian to the best of her ability. The close of the third year found "all departments of the library well organized, and it would seem that it is now ready to enter upon a career of greater usefulness and wider influence than has hitherto been possible."

\* See p. 170.



1904

The last of the sixteen branches to be established was that at Elgin, situated on the Erie Railroad and about fourteen miles southeast of Van Wert. Elgin is in York Township and has a population of 129. On October 10, 1904, books were placed in the office of Dr. A. Pfeiffer and cared for by Mrs. Pfeiffer, who succeeded in interesting a number of young people of the community in the formation of a reading club. This being the time of the Russo-Japanese War, when Japan more than ever before in its history attracted the attention of the world, bright and readable books about the Japanese people and nation were sent from the central library to Elgin for this club. The Elgin branch has been subject to many changes of location and librarians. It is now in charge of C. L. Clantz, who recently became the proprietor of the store where the branch is located.

Another evidence of the general interest taken in the county work was the fact that several of the county papers in the towns having branches published free of charge the lists of books received at their stations, which especially led the children in the country and county towns to make good use of the books, a gratifying fact, as the best of juvenile books were included in the collections sent to the branches.

The routine work of the branches was now moving along more smoothly. Those in charge began better to understand what was expected of them and to realize the importance of seemingly insignificant details; records of circulation were more systematically reported; the boxes of books were returned more promptly, and, with the exception of general wear and tear, naturally to be expected, they came from the branches in good condition. There still remained some difficulty, however, in getting the branch librarians to return all books in the boxes to which they belonged; and to send in belated books at the expense of the borrowers.

This last rule was disregarded by them in the beginning, perhaps wisely, lest its strict enforcement might lose the library some friends. In later years these difficulties have been reduced to a minimum.

Almost daily new names from all parts of the county were added to the list of borrowers, many of whom a year previously scarcely knew of the existence of the library, but now became its most interested patrons. The annual report at the end of the fourth year says: "With the knowledge of the constantly increasing interest in the library everywhere manifest, we can confidently assert that *the county library is no longer an experiment in this county*, but an undoubted success, an institution resting upon the firm foundation of proved usefulness and of general approval, strong in the earnest and enthusiastic support of the intelligent citizenship of the county."

#### 1906

In 1906 another lot of 2,000 books was purchased for the branches. Since the selection of these was based largely on the A. L. A. catalogue, sixteen copies of the catalogue were bought to serve as finding-lists, one for each station. The need of a dictionary card catalogue of the books in the county collections had been felt so frequently at the central library that such a catalogue was prepared for the new books bought to replace those which had been in circulation at the branches for three years. Whatever books of these old collections were fit were repaired, rebound, catalogued and placed upon the shelves at the central library. A letter to each branch librarian was sent in advance of the boxes calling attention to the new books and asking him to interest his patrons and friends in the books.

#### 1907

The work of the Brumback Library was assuming greater significance each year. The Board were engrossed in

planning to make it successful in reaching the people of the entire county, in solving the problems which often unexpectedly presented themselves, and in overcoming obstacles as they arose. They were engaged in the work of proving to Van Wert County as a whole that the Brumback Library could and should be of value to the entire county, rural as well as municipal. They had not stopped to think much about the fact that the experiment was being watched by others outside of the county, although frequent requests for information concerning the methods employed had been received from the beginning of the library. As these grew more numerous it became very evident that the county library idea was attracting considerable outside attention. In a book \* of 47 small type pages almost a page is devoted to the Brumback Library of Van Wert County and the possibilities of the county library movement in the United States. The author says, "die grosse Bedeutung der Einrichtung für die Zukunft, da an ihrer Entwicklungsfähigkeit nicht zu zweifeln ist, kann nicht hoch genug angeschlagen werden." †

The Ohio State Library Bulletin for April, 1907, has the following to say regarding the county library: "The system is ideal with the central library at the county-seat and stations for the delivery of books at convenient points of access in the rural districts. The people of the entire county can have the uplifting influence that springs from the companionship of books. This ideal system is practical as well. It has been tested in the counties of Van Wert and Hamilton of this state and in both it has been most popular."

1908

The new feature of circulating current periodicals through the branches was introduced in 1908. Duplicate periodicals

\* "Amerikanische Bibliotheken und ihre Bestrebungen," 1905, Dr. A. B. Meyer, Dresden, Germany.

† The great significance of the county library system for the future, regarding whose possibilities for development there is no doubt, cannot be estimated too highly.

were subscribed for by the central library and some of the current magazine numbers were sent in each box to the stations to be circulated the same as books. It was the endeavor to place at least one monthly and two weekly periodicals in each box. This was continued until 1910, when another plan was put into operation as follows: Harper's was ordered for Delphos and for Convoy, Scribner's for Ohio City, the Century for Scott and St. Nicholas for Willshire. These were ordered sent direct from the publisher to the stations. Delphos reported the circulation of Harper's magazine to be 148, over twelve circulations for each issue. At the present time the Delphos branch is supplied by the county library with Harper's, the Century, Scribner's, World's Work and St. Nicholas. The circulation of the periodicals was much less at the other branches. But it must be remembered in this connection that it naturally takes some time for borrowers at the branches to become aware of special privileges. The custodians are busy men and neglect to remind customers of new features.

In 1914, a different plan has been inaugurated. Delphos still receives its magazines direct from the publishers, but in all other cases the duplicate copies come to the central library, which serves as the magazine clearing-house. Each of the stations for which magazines have been ordered still continues to receive all the numbers of its particular magazines. As these come to the central library they are held in readiness to be sent in the boxes going to the stations for which magazines were ordered. The back numbers returned from the branches are utilized at other stations.

To quote from the report of the librarian for 1908: "We are glad to report a substantial progress in the work as a whole, including a growing recognition on the part of the people of the county as to the value of the library not only as a means of recreation and general culture, but as one of the active and leading educational forces of the county."

1910

An innovation in 1910 was that of a library exhibit at the county fair in September. Since this is a gathering place for people from all parts of the county (the attendance on the big day each year, weather permitting, is equal to and often greater than the population of the whole county), it affords a most excellent opportunity for advertising the library. A small space in the school exhibition hall was set aside as library headquarters and during the entire week of the fair some member of the library staff was there to talk to visitors about the library and to distribute the pamphlets, application cards and book lists, which were kept in the booth. While this first experiment was on a small scale it was productive of results such as effective, personal work only can accomplish. The opportunities offered by the library to one and all were discussed and any misunderstandings as to its purpose and scope were explained away. The oft repeated expression, "We never knew that before," indicated the need of this method of library advertising.

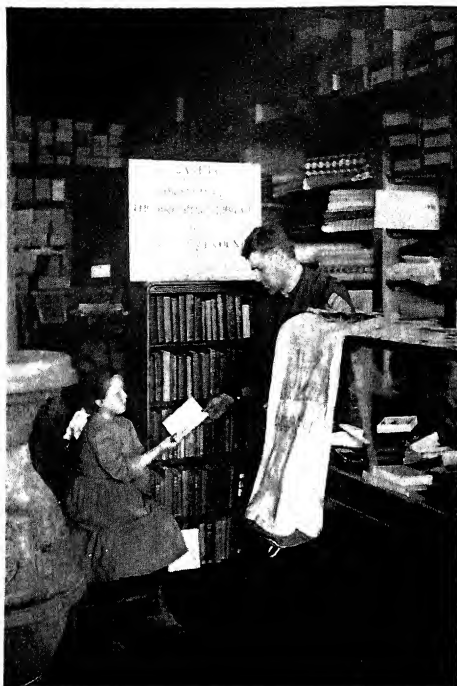
It was in 1910 that the new method of renewing four county collections each year instead of replacing the entire sixteen collections every fourth year was adopted.\* A rough estimate of the number of books sent to the county stations and county schools during this year was 8,000 books.

In July, 1910, the branch librarians attended a meeting in Van Wert, at which were also present the members of the board and the library staff. A dinner at the hotel was enjoyed, after which there was an informal discussion of the work, which brought out from the branch librarians many interesting facts and valuable suggestions as to ways in which the central library might prove more helpful to the county stations. While the attendance was smaller than desired the value of the meeting was unquestioned. Largely

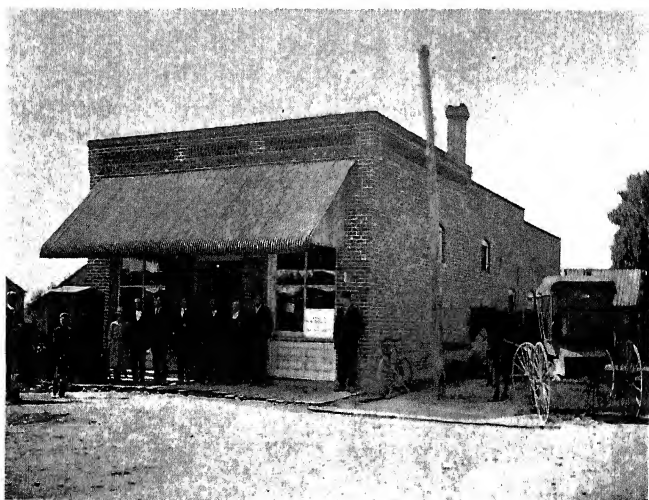
\* See p. 171.



LOCATION OF CAVETT BRANCH LIBRARY



LOCATION OF  
CAVETT BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR



LOCATION OF DASIE BRANCH LIBRARY

as a result of this conference annotated lists of the books of the boxes of the sixteen collections were printed in small pamphlet form and sent with the boxes to the stations. It was hoped that these lists, which gave brief synopses of the books' contents and which were to be taken to the homes of borrowers for consultation, would be another step toward better service for rural residents. Increased circulation from the stations first receiving these lists and reports as to their use were a sufficient indication of their value.

### 1911

Early in 1911 printed cards giving the location of the county branch stations with a cordial invitation to the people of the county to make use of the library's resources were framed and hung in the railroad stations, hotels and other public places.

The increasing demands made upon the library demonstrated that the time and thought constantly given to the county work with the idea of making the library of use and accessible to the entire county had been productive of good results. Not only club workers, teachers, ministers, students and business men of the county were familiar with the resources of the library at their command, but farmers were coming more and more to depend on its collections of agricultural works, many of them too expensive for individual purchase; such, for example, as Bailey's "Cyclopedia of Agriculture," etc., which could be consulted not only in person but by letter of inquiry to the librarian. Exhibits of books and book lists on related subjects were often requested for corn shows, poultry shows, farmers' institutes, county teachers' institutes, Sunday school conventions, etc.

On some occasions of this kind the librarian is requested by those in charge to give talks on varied subjects. These talks are brief, sometimes calling attention to the library resources, sometimes considering such subjects as "Reading



in the Farm Home," "Right Reading for Children," "What are the Best Magazines," etc. This has proved very helpful, enabling the librarian to know at close range the people of the county and their needs, while they in turn are brought into closer touch with the library, its purposes and aims.\*

Frequent visits by the librarian or trustees to the county stations, visits by the librarian and assistants to the schools, to ministers and to individuals of the county also serve to bring about a closer relationship between the people and the library. Furthermore, an effort has been made to render reference service at long range to county residents. The following are some of the specific questions asked and answered by letter: Have you any material on the lighting of country school houses? Send me a recent book on the spraying of fruit trees. Have you any printed lists of books for girls from ten to fourteen? What are the entrance requirements for the State University? What states have woman's suffrage? Have you a list of the experiment stations of the United States? What are some good recent books on poultry? What is the best edition of Shakespeare? What is the population of Ohio by counties? Send me a book on women's colleges, etc.

This year the library made an extensive exhibit at the county fair. A large tent provided for the purpose by the fair and library boards was equipped by the library as a reading and rest room for the visitors from all parts of the county, who, spending the entire day on the grounds, were glad to seek an occasional bit of rest and quiet. Some of the best and latest books, magazines and newspapers were

\* To illustrate the value of personal work in advancing the cause of the library, one of the trustees a few months ago delivered an address at a Farmers' Institute held at Wetsel, where one of the branches is located. In his address he spoke of the library and urged the people to avail themselves more freely of its resources. As a result, during the month following his address the circulation of the branch was double that of the preceding month.

to be found there. Collections of recent books on agriculture and allied subjects, also a model collection of children's books, were shown. A member of the library staff was present each day.

## 1912

In this year the library was complimented by a visit from Mr. Samuel Ranck, librarian of the Grand Rapids, Michigan, library, by whom a very comprehensive and readable article \* on "Rural Library Extension" was later published. In this he says:

The Brumback Library is a pioneer in being started as a county library. Last summer I had the pleasure of visiting the Van Wert library and a number of its branches, riding some forty miles in an automobile through the county to see them and to get pictures for some slides [to be used in lecture work]. Van Wert County is wholly an agricultural county. . . . The teachers and country people come to Van Wert to do their shopping, at the same time getting books at the library . . . In conclusion it may be said with reference to Van Wert County that although it is a community of farmers (many of them Germans) they believe thoroughly in education. . . . Altogether I am sure Van Wert is a splendid model to follow in the county development of rural library service.

## 1913

During this year there arose a knotty problem whose solution required the best thought of all those interested in the welfare of the library. But before taking up this problem, it will be necessary to consider several matters by way of introduction. As already indicated, Delphos, a city of 5,038 inhabitants, lies on the eastern boundary line of the county, the east half being located in Allen County and the west half in Washington Township, Van Wert County. Since

\* "Rural Library Extension," December, 1912, number of *Michigan Libraries*, official organ of the State Library Commissioners.

the opening of the Brumback Library a branch had been maintained in Delphos for the use of those living in Van Wert County. The Delphos grade schools and high school being located in Van Wert County have had special collections in their class-rooms from the main library, and books have frequently been sent on request to clubs, pupils and teachers for special work. In addition to this, many of the pupils of the Delphos high school have visited the central library to use its reference department in preparing essays and debates. All possible assistance has been accorded them by the librarian not only in person but by correspondence. The Van Wert County half of Delphos is by far the largest town, outside of Van Wert itself, served by the library, and for this reason their special needs have always been considered as fully as possible in all the work and especially in the supplementary collections. As already stated, this branch has also been supplied with magazines. But the people of Delphos living on the Allen County side unfortunately had to be denied the use of the branch unless they paid three dollars a year each for the privilege.

It is therefore not surprising that there arose a desire for a library that would serve the interests of the whole city. Accordingly, an effort was made to secure a city library, which resulted in a Carnegie library on the usual terms. The dedication of the new library occurred almost simultaneously with the resignation of the branch librarian of the Delphos branch of the Brumback Library, which made it necessary for the county library trustees to secure a new branch librarian. A committee was appointed to visit Delphos with this purpose in view. The committee went to several available places of business, also to the new library, which commended itself to them as the logical place for the branch if the two library boards could agree on a satisfactory arrangement for its operation in the Delphos city library. A few days later, January 21, 1913, an article

appeared in the *Van Wert Bulletin*, which had been copied from the *Delphos Herald*, from which is quoted the following:

Since the local people on the west side of Delphos are helping to support the county library and are entitled to the privileges of a branch library, why would it not be a good idea to have the books placed in the public library where they would be easy of access to those entitled to their use, and could be taken care of by the city librarian? Delphos is entitled to the continuation of the branch library so long as the tax-payers on the west side are bearing their share for its maintenance, and it will be necessary to have a place for keeping the books, pay rent for same and engage a librarian to distribute them. The Delphos public library is a new institution, and the trustees are finding it difficult to make both ends meet with the allowance in their hands, many expenses arising from the opening of the library. If the branch of the Brumback Library could be placed in the public library and the amount paid for rent and the services of a librarian be given to this new institution, it would assist in no small measure in securing the necessary amount to pay the expenses incurred. If this arrangement could be made it would meet with the approval of the users of the branch library and at the same time be a benefit to the local institution. No doubt the Van Wert County library trustees will grant this if a request is made.

At their meeting on January 27, 1913, the Brumback Library Board on motion indicated their willingness to place their Delphos branch in the new Delphos library for those entitled to its use. Thereupon the Delphos Board sent a committee to confer with the Brumback Library Board. This meeting was a most happy one, in which the spirit of cooperation was clearly manifest. The advisability of placing the county branch in the Delphos library hinged upon the question of whether the books of the county branch might or might not circulate in the whole of Delphos. It was plainly evident to both boards that with the county branch in the Delphos library restricted to half of Delphos,

there would be three sets of borrowers using the Delphos library: first, those from the Allen County side of Delphos, who might borrow only the Delphos library books, and not the Van Wert County books; secondly, those from the Van Wert County side of Delphos who might use any of the books; and thirdly, residents of Van Wert County outside of Delphos, who might use only the county books. The confusion arising from this restriction of privileges in some cases and double privileges in others would naturally result in dissatisfaction on the part of all patrons of the library. On the other hand, it was just as plainly evident to both boards that the Brumback Library Board had not the right to furnish library service free to the residents of Allen County for which the residents of Van Wert County were paying.

As a result of earnest thought the following plan was evolved. The privilege of using the books of the county branch was extended to all the residents of Delphos and, in return for this, all residents of Washington Township, in addition to their present privileges, were allowed the free use of the Delphos Library. This happy arrangement went into effect early in April, 1913, and by it the Delphos Library and the Brumback County Library are of mutual benefit. Every three months the Delphos Library receives from the Brumback Library a balanced collection of 200 or more up-to-date books. Books especially requested are included whenever possible. The magazines subscribed for the county branch are sent to the Delphos Library or such magazines as they desire at a cost not to exceed fifteen dollars. The \$50 hitherto paid to the branch librarian is paid to the Delphos librarian for her care of the branch.

A great part of the Delphos income is necessarily needed for maintenance and particularly is this true in the beginning. Hence they are glad to get the books from the county library, since the changing collections provide them with about

1,000 volumes of up-to-date books of all classes during each year. This permits them to use their limited book fund for the purchase of reference works and other books so essential to every library whether large or small. Nothing in the history of the library has been more pleasing than this cooperation of the two library boards, as it shows they are working for the general good and not for library aggrandizement.

During the summer of 1913 the circuit of all the stations was made in an automobile. The chief purpose of the jaunts was to secure exterior and interior views of the branches. The local color was carefully preserved in these pictures as much as possible and since the reproductions are given in this book they may speak for themselves. One set of these pictures is framed and on display at the central library; another set is used for exhibit purposes; and a third set was sent to the branches, each branch receiving its own pictures framed to be hung over its bookcase.

This "photo campaign" was the occasion of much enjoyment for all concerned and it is needless to say that all restraint was absent on these jaunts, since the slogan was — "Look pleasant, please." By means of some "pointed suggestions" and "sharp reminders" many preconceived notions with respect to the county work were "punctured," and "collapsed" as did one of the well-inflated tires when it ran on the sharp end of a horse shoe nail on one of the return trips.

Before forwarding the framed pictures to the stations they were used in the library exhibit at the county fair in September, 1913. The following account of the fair exhibit is taken from the librarian's report:

This exhibit occupied a space 8x10 feet. It was fitted up with cases of books, pertaining mostly to agriculture and housekeeping, together with other library appurtenances. On the walls was displayed the collection of pictures of the

library branches uniformly framed and plainly labeled as to the names of the several communities. These attracted many persons who were pleased to see pictures of places and people familiar to them. In addition to this interesting exhibit in the main hall, placards calling attention to the library's facilities for helping farmers and their wives were placed among the various exhibits and in numerous appropriate places throughout the grounds, where they would readily catch the eye and attention of all present. These cards, 9x24 inches, were attractively lettered in colors by a sign painter. Just above the pen containing the largest hogs at the fair, a place that was always surrounded by interested spectators, was a placard reading:

Your Hogs — Are they fat and hungry or lean and overfed? See Brumback Library Exhibit — A book on Swine.

In the fancy work display was a card reading: Book of Stitches and Home Needle Work Magazine. — Ask at the Brumback Library Exhibit. [This one exhibit alone brought numerous women to the library booth to see the books.]

At the entrance to the grandstand there was one reading: Are your boys learning to farm? The Brumback Library has books to help beginners.

Other placards appropriately placed were as follows: Do you know how to make a tile drain? Ask for book telling how at the Brumback County Library Exhibit in Art Hall.

Is your farm big enough or too big? The Brumback Library has books on such subjects, written by farm experts.

Does Live Stock Pay? Ask at the Brumback Library Exhibit in Art Hall for "Profitable Stockraising."

Do you know what your corn costs per acre? See the agricultural books at the Brumback Library Exhibit in Art Hall.

Have you read up on alfalfa? Ask for "Book of Alfalfa" at Brumback Library Exhibit in Art Hall.

Who does the milking? "Farm Dairying" is a good book for milk men and milk maids to read. Brumback Library Exhibit.

"How to Keep Hens for Profit." Brumback Library Exhibit in Art Hall.

Before preserving and pickling read new recipes. The Brumback Library has cook books.

Does housing farm machinery pay? Read a book on farm machinery, Brumback Library Exhibit in Art Hall.

From an article in the *Van Wert Times* (September 13, 1913), entitled "Banner County Fair is very Successful," the following is quoted:

The largest and most successful fair ever held in Van Wert County has become a matter of history and the Agricultural Society as well as the residents of this county may be proud of their success. For many years it has been conceded that this county has one of the best fairs in the state, ranking perhaps third\* in the matter of attendance and first when the quality and character of the exhibits are considered. At least forty thousand people were on the grounds Thursday. The liberality of the crowd in attendance Thursday can be gauged by the fact that investigation showed \$4,163 spent for red lemonade, hot hamberger and other fair delicacies.

The Brumback Library had one of the most attractive displays at the big fair, and perhaps the one which carried with it a greater meaning for the advancement of the community than any of the creditable showings on display. The institution had arranged in their booth in the Art Hall photographs of the interior and exterior of all the fifteen stations they have in the county and impressed the visitor very strongly with the great range of country they cover and the large number of readers they reach, far more than any other library in the state which is operated as a city library in any of the small-sized county-seats. At all the displays the library management had posted signs calling attention to the fact that they had books on various topics. At the poultry tent the visitor was informed that at the Brumback Library could be found books treating on subjects of interest to poultry fanciers, while at the Art Hall, at the hog, cattle and horse displays the same scheme was carried out. By this it was hoped to bring to the free institution as many different kinds of readers as possible and to impress on as great a number as possible the fact that Van Wert has an educational institution which can be and at all times is ready to be of service to all the people of the county.

When it comes to giving a high class exhibition in every particular other fairs in this section will have to "go some." A visitor remarked while on the ground Friday, "Well, if

\* In point of population Van Wert County is fifty-first of the eighty-eight counties.



that isn't the limit — the grind-organ on the merry-go-round is playing grand opera;" and it was a fact, Verdi's music was the accompaniment for the rotary joy riders.

A recent article\* by Miss Sarah Comstock, entitled "Byways of Library Work," says:

The remarkable Brumback Library of Van Wert County, Ohio, resorts to most ingenious methods to reach the 29,000 people who are scattered over 423 [405] square miles of agricultural land. It does not rest with sending books to its fifteen county stations and the county schools, and leaving the people to read or not as they like. It lays traps for the reader. At the Van Wert County Fair, in September, 1913, it not only presented its own exhibit, but it took advantage of everybody else's exhibit to call attention to itself....

A year's circulation of 31,815 [for 1911; figures for 1913 are 35,897] in the county stations and schools alone, the two rural distributing agencies, says much for the value of up-to-date commercial methods applied to literature.

Some of the pictures of the branches were utilized in a library bulletin which was made up by the librarian upon the request of Mr. J. P. Sharkey, superintendent of the Van Wert city schools, to accompany the local school exhibit to the State Fair. This bulletin was made use of by the librarian in a talk given by her in the round table discussion on County Libraries at the Oberlin meeting of the Ohio Library Association. Again it was used by a librarian who desired to show it to her trustees, and at a street fair, with the hope of giving an impetus to the county library idea fast taking root in her county.

Bulletin material and pictures representative of Van Wert County library rural extension work were also sent in compliance with a request from Mr. Carl Milam, president of the League of Library Commissioners, to be used in the library exhibit of the National Educational Association at Salt Lake City, in 1913.

\* *The Outlook*, January 24, 1914.



LOCATION OF DIXON BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR



LOCATION OF DIXON BRANCH LIBRARY



LOCATION OF GLENMORE BRANCH LIBRARY

Because of the surprisingly great number of automobiles owned and operated in this, a rural county, a brief list of books for autoists was printed and distributed in the county. Some of these lists were sent to each of the eleven garages in Van Wert County with a note asking that they be placed where their patrons can see and use them. This met with immediate response and at least served the purpose of apprising many people that the library has books of interest for all needs.

How a neighboring county regards the Brumback Library and its work is shown by the following. A resident of Paulding County recently gave the librarian \$50 with which to purchase books for a district school library. He was neither a school director nor a school trustee, but was interested in having good reading and wanted the best books for this particular school. This incident indicates that there is not only a growing demand for better books in rural communities but a desire for expert advice in the selection of books. The Brumback Library learned with pleasure that Paulding County, Van Wert's neighbor on the north, was trying to secure a county library and gladly gave any desired information as to its own work. The following article appeared in the *Van Wert Times* of June 14, 1913, since which time the Paulding County Library has become an assured fact and is the first county library established by Mr. Carnegie in Ohio.

The town of Paulding was rejoicing Friday night over the prospects of having a library of consequence in the very near future. The situation in the town to the north has been very similar to the one existing here before the late J. S. Brumback made possible the magnificent institution of which all local citizens are justly proud.

For some time the library association at Paulding, which has maintained a small institution, together with several of the leading citizens, have had a movement on foot to secure a Carnegie building for their county, and several propositions

were considered. The announcement Friday evening that Mrs. A. L. Latty would donate two lots in the business section of the town, valued at \$2,500, for a site, makes it certain that the county commissioners will provide the necessary tax levy, so that the town will have an institution for the use and receiving the support of the county. It is the plan now to arrange for an income of \$4,000 a year for the library and under the Carnegie offer this will provide for the county a \$40,000 building.

Van Wert citizens are in a position to speak from experience of the good arising from institutions of this kind and congratulate the neighboring town upon its good fortune.

Mr. Carnegie gives as his reasons for contributing so magnificently to the library movement the following:

I choose free libraries as the best agencies for improving the masses of the people, because they give nothing for nothing. They only help those who help themselves. They never pauperize. They reach the aspiring, and open to these the chief treasures of the world—those stored up in books. A taste for reading drives out lower tastes. Besides this, I believe good fiction one of the most beneficial reliefs to the monotonous lives of the poor. For these and other reasons I prefer the free public library to most if not any other agencies for the happiness and improvement of a community.

The following is a list of the books in one of the present county collections:

#### PHILOSOPHY

Ross, E. A. Sin and society.

Sangster, Margaret. Happy school days.

#### RELIGION

Stelzle, Charles. American social and religious conditions.

Wilson, W. H. Evolution of the country community.

#### SOCIOLOGY

Cocroft, Susanna. The woman worth while.

Dinsmore, J. W. Teaching a district school.

Laselle & Wiley. Vocations for girls.

Wilson, Woodrow. The new freedom.

## SCIENCE

- Bostock, F. C. Training wild animals.  
Gibbs, W. E. Lighting by acetylene.  
Turner, C. C. Romance of aeronautics.

## USEFUL ARTS

- Hunt, T. F. The young farmer ; some things he should know.  
Hutchinson, Woods. Common diseases.  
Scott, W. R. Americans in Panama.  
Sill, E. M. The child.  
Slauson, H. W. Car troubles.  
Smith, W. C. How to grow 100 bushels of corn per acre on worn soil.

## FINE ARTS

- Bevier, Isabel. The house ; its plan, decoration and care.  
Hornaday, W. T. Our vanishing wild life.

## LITERATURE

- Bunyan, John. Pilgrim's Progress.  
Matter, John. Three farms.  
Rittenhouse, J. B. The younger American poets.

## TRAVEL

- Bostwick, A. E. The different West.  
Carl, K. A. With the Empress Dowager.  
DeForest, Katharine. Paris as it is.  
Spears, J. R. Master mariners.  
Tozier, Josephine. Among English inns.

## BIOGRAPHY

- Adams & Foster. Heroines of modern progress.  
Bevan, W. L. The world's leading conquerors.  
Horne, C. S. David Livingstone.  
Hess, George. Leading American inventors.  
Trevelyan, G. M. Garibaldi and the Thousand.  
Wiggin, Mrs. K. D. S. A child's journey with Dickens.

## HISTORY

- Headlam, Cecil. Story of Nuremberg.  
Rhodes, J. F. Lectures on the American Civil War.

- Schaff, Morris. The sunset of the Confederacy.  
Young, Alexander. History of the Netherlands.

## FICTION

- Aldrich, T. B. Marjorie Daw and other stories.  
Allen, Mrs. F. N. S. The invaders.  
Barclay, Mrs. Hubert. A dream of blue roses.  
Bentley, E. C. The woman in black.  
Bindloss, Harold. Ranching for Sylvia.  
Bordeaux, Henry. The fear of living.  
Buckrose, J. E. Love in a little town.  
Comfort, W. L. Fate knocks at the door.  
Crichton, F. E. Soundless tide.  
Dickens, Charles. Old curiosity shop.  
Duncan, Norman. The measure of a man.  
Ferber, Edna. Roast-beef, medium.  
Ford, P. L. Wanted — A chaperon.  
Fox, John, Jr. Little shepherd of Kingdom Come.  
Gale, Zona. Mothers to men.  
Gerry, M. S. Flowers.  
Gilson, R. R. Katrina.  
Gordon, C. W. The doctor.  
Grimshaw, Beatrice. When the red gods call.  
Harrison, H. S. V. V.'s eyes.  
Johnson, Owen. The sixty-first second.  
Marriott, Crittenden. Sally Castleton.  
Maxwell, W. B. General Mallock's shadow.  
Morris, Gouverneur. The penalty.  
Munger, D. H. The wind before the dawn.  
Richards, Mrs. L. E. H. Miss Jimmy.  
Rinehart, Mrs. M. R. The case of Jennie Brice.  
Scott, Sir Walter. Quentin Durward.  
Stevenson, B. E. The young section hand.  
Stewart, C. D. Finerty of the sandhouse.  
Stockton, F. R. Vizier of the two-horned Alexander.  
Stringer, A. J. A. The shadow.  
Tarkington, Booth. The flirt.  
Ward, Mrs. M. A. A. The mating of Lydia.

## BOOKS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

- Allen, C. F. David Crockett, scout.  
Altsheler, J. A. The Texan star.

Bailey, O. S. Girl's make-at-home things.  
Baldwin, James. The sampo.  
Carroll, Lewis. Alice's adventures in Wonderland.  
Carruth, Haydon. Track's end.  
DuBois, M. C. The lass of the silver sword.  
DuBois, M. C. The league of the signet ring.  
Finnemore, John. Barbary rovers.  
Griewold, Latta. Deering of Deal.  
Gulliver, Lucile. The friendship of nations.  
Hall and Lenox. Red letter days and facts.  
Hodges, George. Saints and heroes.  
Holbrook, Florence. The Hiawatha primer.  
Hough, Emerson. Young Alaskans on the trail.  
How to Play Baseball.  
Kipling, Rudyard. The Kipling reader.  
Lamb, Charles. Adventures of Ulysses.  
Marshall, Mrs. E. M. In four reigns.  
Masefield, John. Jim Davis.  
Mix, J. I. Mighty animals.  
Potter, Beatrix. Tale of Peter Rabbit.  
Quirk, L. W. The fourth down.  
Schutlz, J. W. With the Indians in the Rockies.  
Zwilmeyer, Dikken. Johnny Blossom.

#### PRESENT METHOD OF OPERATING THE BRANCHES

In the early establishment of the Brumback county library system, when collections of books from the main library were located in a number of places of business in the county, these were called "branch libraries" and those in charge of them were called "branch librarians." These terms were used for convenience and as the most expressive. Such names as sub-stations, branch stations, delivery stations, deposit stations and county stations have also been used, and later the word "custodian" has come into vogue as a synonym of branch librarian.

In this book all of these terms are employed, but the words "branch library" and "branch librarian" seem to be the most suitable. The term "branch library" conveys the



idea of both books and location, and while it may be less than a branch library in the strict sense of the words, it is more than a delivery or deposit station; and while the one in charge of a branch library is less than a branch librarian, in the full sense of the term, he is more than a mere custodian. Hence, for the lack of better terms these are used as the most expressive.

Van Wert as the county-seat is the logical location for a county library, and, being centrally located, it is well adapted to the administration of a county traveling library system. It lies at the intersection of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Cincinnati Northern Railroad and the Ohio Electric Interurban Line, which render it easily accessible from all parts of the county and afford convenient transportation in all directions.

In order to reach the people of the county, books are placed at the various trading points, whether they be villages or cross-roads. It chances that, at present, the fifteen branches are located in five drug stores, seven general stores, two post offices and the Delphos Public Library. Five factors enter into the work of the branches.

#### A. BORROWERS OF THE BRANCHES

Rules for the government of the patrons of the branches :

1. Residents of Van Wert County, above the age of nine years, are entitled to the privileges of the library or any of its branches, by signing an agreement to comply with the rules and regulations of the library. Such application blanks may be found at the library or at any of the stations, where applicants may be supplied with borrowers' cards.

2. A borrower's card entitles the holder to draw books from the central library at Van Wert or from any of the branch libraries established by the Board of Trustees in different parts of the county, provided each book is returned to the same place from which it was taken.

3. Each branch is furnished with a placard specifying dates upon which the books are to be returned by the librarian of the

station to Van Wert. A book withheld beyond these dates, necessitating its return separately, must be sent by the librarian at the borrower's expense.

4. All regulations in the "Book of Rules" with respect to the care of books, fines, etc., applicable to borrowers from the central library will be enforced against patrons obtaining books at the branches.

#### B. BOOKS FOR THE BRANCHES

*Selection.* In the selection of books for the branches exceeding care is exercised to provide the latest and most highly commended works on the various sciences and arts, the most interesting books of travel and the best of literature. Book lists and reviews which are recognized as authoritative are consulted in choosing the most desirable of the recent books, while some of the standard works are always included in the collections. Order slips are kept on file of especially new and attractive books, in readiness for the time when purchase of county books shall be made. In the consideration of all tastes it is the aim to have each 100 books representative of all the classes of literature, the basis of which is as follows: 26 juvenile, 30 fiction, 1 philosophy, 3 religion, 4 sociology, 1 philology, 4 science, 5 useful arts, 3 fine arts, 6 literature, 5 biography, 6 history, 7 travel. This apportionment varies slightly in each collection, depending upon the desirable books available at the time of purchase.

*Purchase.* For a number of years balanced collections were purchased periodically for the branches. Under this arrangement the seventeen packing boxes (an extra one for emergencies) with their collections completed the circuit of the stations in forty-eight months, each box having remained at each station three months. Consequently at the end of the fourth year the 2,000 books in the county boxes were transferred to the shelves of the main library, another lot having been purchased and made ready to refill the county boxes. The task of selecting 2,000 books which

would not duplicate to any great extent those previously in the county collections nor the books on the library shelves, and which would yet be readable, popular and of more than ephemeral value, grew increasingly more difficult. Therefore, in 1910 the better plan of renewing four boxes each year was adopted, whereby each year takes care of its own work, and thenceforward there ceased to be a quadrennial task so great that other work of the library had to be neglected pending its completion. Thus, a definite sum for county books can be set aside each year and the heavy outlay every fourth year is avoided.

*Preparation.* These books are collated, pocketed, stamped, labeled, accessioned, classified and catalogued the same as books for the central library, but they have their own separate shelf-list as long as they are kept in the county. They are provided with the regulation book card to be kept at the central library. In addition to this, in each book pocket is placed another book card (see opposite page for illustration).

A balanced collection of about 125 books is then placed in a packing case, which is a substantially made box with tray, hinged lid, handles and lock and key. These boxes are painted gray and have the name and address of the library, also the words, "Books — Keep Dry," lettered on them in black. On the end of each box is painted its number (1 up to 17), which is always retained by the box or its substitute. Each box has a capacity of from 125 to 200 books and the collection placed in it travels with the box as long as that collection is in use in the county, or until the books are finally returned to the central library shelves. Upon the inside of the lid of each book is tacked a typewritten, classified list of the books sent in the box with any changes that may be made from time to time. Printed booklets containing annotated lists of the books in the box are placed in the box to be distributed by the branch librarians to their

patrons for home reference. The box is then shipped, freight prepaid, to its branch as per schedule. Extra boxes averaging 100 books each are sent to some of the stations regularly and to others as needed.

Author _____		
Title _____		
THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY		
DATE LENT	BORROWER'S NAME	DATE RETURNED

## C. BRANCH LIBRARIANS

At each location of a branch is hung on the outside of the building a metal sign, in blue and white enamel: "Branch of the Brumback Library of Van Wert County. Books free to all residents of the county." Each branch is also supplied with a neat book-case holding from 150 to 200

books and a small tin tray for the filing of book cards. At the first of every year a placard 6x10 inches is sent from the main library to each branch librarian. On this is printed in heavy type the dates for that year on which the boxes are to be returned to the central library from that particular station; for example:

CONVOY	
28 February,	1911.
25 May,....	1911.
21 August,..	1911.
14 November,	1911.

These placards are hung in a prominent place, where the patrons as well as the branch librarian can note the dates. Promptness in the following of this schedule both by custodian and patrons is expected, so that there need be no delay in the transfer of boxes from one station to another. When the branch librarian receives his box of books he checks off the books with the list on the lid of the box and places them in the book-case. When a borrower comes for a book, the branch librarian removes the book card \* from the book pocket and writes on it the name of the borrower and date of the loan. He then places the card on file alphabetically in the tin tray provided for the purpose, where it remains until the return of the book. Every evening he counts and makes a note of the number of book cards issued that day on a circulation sheet provided for the purpose, and at the end of the month sends in to the county assistant the circulation for the month on a post card printed with the library's address and provided by the central library for the purpose. The printed form of the card is:

\* See p. 173.

..... books circulated from ..... during the month  
of .....

..... (Signature)

On the return of the book by the borrower the date is written on the book card and the card is replaced in the book. These book cards remain in the books when they are returned at the end of twelve weeks to the central library. The branch librarian pays the drayage (for which he is reimbursed), but all freight is paid at the central library. Any requests for special books by patrons of a branch are forwarded to the county assistant by whom the books are sent in the next box to the station. If the need is urgent they are sent by mail or express.

Each branch librarian is paid \$50 a year for his services. Promptness, intelligence and personal interest are necessary qualifications for a good branch librarian and the success of the branch depends in a great measure upon his enthusiasm in the work. Beginning with the year 1907 a monthly report was sent to each of the sixteen branch librarians containing a statement of the number of books circulated from all the branches during the month, the total number of applications received, the total number of cards renewed, and giving each station its rank according to the number of books circulated during the month. In this way the branches are kept informed as to the progress of the work. In addition to this, tables are occasionally sent to the branches showing the highest and lowest circulation since the installation of each branch.

The rules governing the librarians of the branches are as follows:

1. All applications must be sent to central library to be registered, on receipt of which corresponding borrowers' cards are returned to the branch librarians.
2. On the lid of each box sent to the stations is a classified list of the books contained in the box. Librarians of the

various stations are expected to check off books with these lists. If any discrepancies are found notice must be sent at once to the county librarian, who takes for granted the correctness of lists unless informed to the contrary, and holds the branch librarian responsible for the books. He must collect all fines for books overdue, impose fines for books damaged and collect price of books lost or destroyed through carelessness. In case books are injured, lost or destroyed through the negligence of the branch librarian, a proper amount is deducted from his salary.

3. The branch librarian must return books to Van Wert on the date specified in the schedule provided by the county librarian. Any books not returned with the boxes must be sent at the expense of those holding the books.

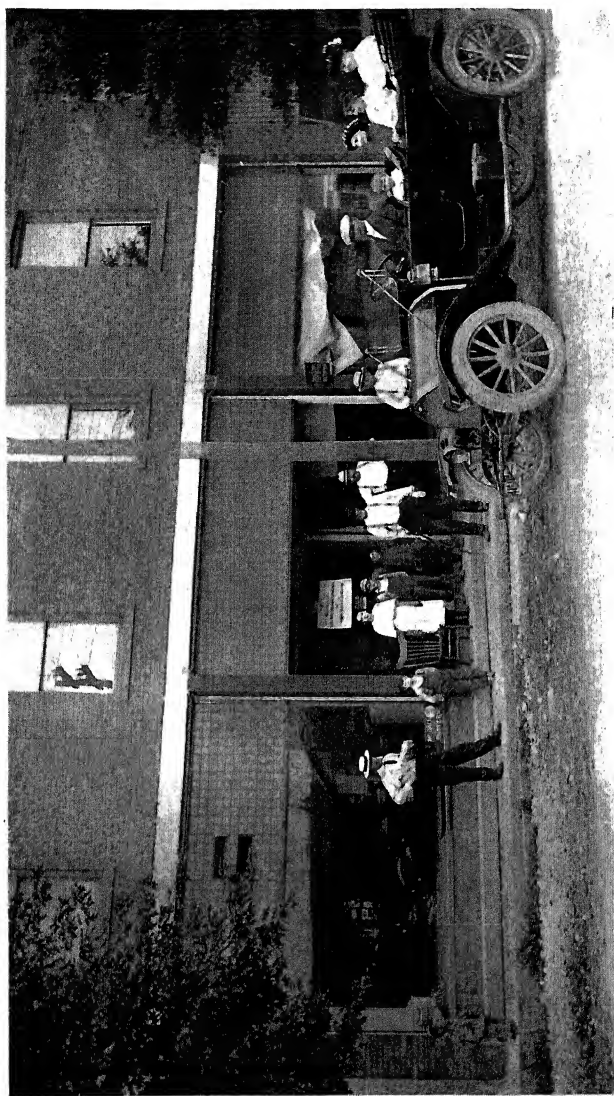
4. It is required by the board that each branch librarian send to the county librarian at the end of every month an accurate report of the circulation of the books at his station, to be submitted to the board in her report at their monthly meetings. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the removal of the branch. If the report is delayed beyond a reasonable time and several notices from the county librarian fail to obtain it and it becomes necessary to telephone concerning same to the branch librarian, the telephone toll shall be deducted from the salary of the branch librarian.

5. Persons having any form of contagious disease in their residence or families shall not be permitted to draw books. In case there are books in the possession of those where contagion exists, it is the duty of the branch librarian to notify the county librarian, who forwards instructions as to the disposal of such books. He should also use his best judgment in closing the branch library in the event of an epidemic and notify the county librarian.

6. The first of January a yearly itemized account of expenditures and receipts in connection with each branch library must be submitted to the board.

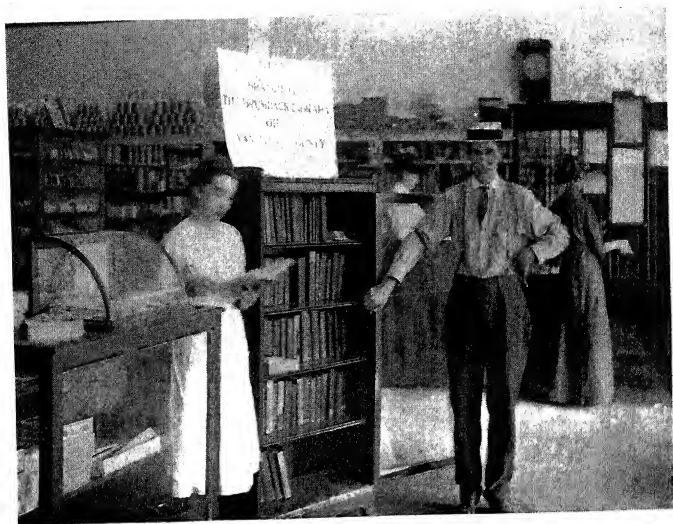
#### D. BRANCHES AND COUNTY ASSISTANT

The box returned to the central library by the branch librarian is taken in charge by the county assistant, who compares the books returned in the box with her packet of book cards (representing the books in that box), which are



LOCATION OF WREN BRANCH LIBRARY





LOCATION OF WREN BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR



LOCATION OF ELGIN BRANCH LIBRARY

kept by her on file under the label of the number of that box. She is thus able to know just what, if any, books are missing and the branch librarian is at once notified. She mends any books in need of repair, sends books to the bindery when necessary, substituting others from the county reserve and making a corresponding change in the typewritten list on the lid of the box. From the book cards returned in the books from the station she gathers statistics of the number of books read, the number of each class read, and, if desired, the number and names of active readers as shown by the cards. Since these statistics of the county assistant cover the period of twelve weeks during which the books were at the branch without regard to calendar months, while the statistics of the branch librarian represent only calendar months, the two sets of statistics cannot be identical; but at the end of the year they should be close enough to reveal any undue discrepancy in reports.

When all is ready she re-packs the books with annotated lists, etc., and sends the box on to its next station as per schedule.

#### E. SCHEDULE OF BRANCHES

The time schedule of the exchange of county boxes is a very important factor in the county work, and not easily explained in a few words. It has to be carefully worked out in advance and should not be interfered with or confusion and complications will arise in the operation of the branch libraries. There are sixteen \* stations, but seventeen boxed collections of books. All of these circulate as per schedule, but having an extra box permits of one box being on hand at all times at the central library to be utilized in case of some special emergency. However, in arranging the schedule, care is taken to provide, in the transfer of the

\* At present there are fifteen stations, but the schedule arranged for sixteen stations remains unchanged, thus providing for any new branch that might be established.

boxes, for an ample margin of time to cover reasonable delays in transportation. To make the round of sixteen stations, remaining at each station three months, each box of books is on duty for forty-eight months, at the end of which time it is refilled with a new collection. Therefore, in preparing a schedule governing the exchange of the boxes, it is necessary to have a calendar of dates for five years in advance.

The county branches have been operating on a schedule which dates from 1910 and provides for sixteen stations. This will soon need to be replaced by another one covering the years to 1919. With her calendars prepared, the county assistant can arrange her schedule for five years for each station and for each box. To illustrate, a part of the old schedule is shown, which may be carried out on the same principle indefinitely through the years.

Station	Date for Box to Reach Station	Box	Date for Box to Reach Station	Box	Date for Box to Reach Station	Box	Date for Box to Reach Station	Box
Scott.....	Jan. 21	17	Apr. 11	16	July 6	15	Oct. 2	14
Dixon.....	Jan. 26	1	Apr. 17	17	July 11	16	Oct. 7	15
Wren.....	Jan. 30	2	Apr. 24	1	July 17	17	Oct. 12	16
Willshire.....	Feb. 3	3	Apr. 29	2	July 24	1	Oct. 17	17
Middlepoint.....	Feb. 8	4	May 4	3	July 31	2	Oct. 23	1
Hutchinson.....	Feb. 13	5	May 9	4	Aug. 5	3	Oct. 30	2
Ohio City.....	Feb. 18	6	May 15	5	Aug. 10	4	Nov. 4	3
Delphos.....	Feb. 23	7	May 20	6	Aug. 15	5	Nov. 9	4
Convoy.....	Feb. 28	8	May 25	7	Aug. 21	6	Nov. 14	5
Cavett.....	Mar. 6	9	May 30	8	Aug. 26	7	Nov. 20	6
Dasie.....	Mar. 11	10	June 5	9	Aug. 31	8	Nov. 25	7
Venedocia.....	Mar. 16	11	June 10	10	Sept. 5	9	Nov. 30	8
Glenmore.....	Mar. 21	12	June 15	11	Sept. 11	10	Dec. 5	9
Wetsel.....	Mar. 27	13	June 20	12	Sept. 16	11	Dec. 11	10
Converse.....	Apr. 1	14	June 26	13	Sept. 21	12	Dec. 16	11
Elgin.....	Apr. 6	15	July 1	14	Sept. 26	13	Dec. 21	12

A study of the above shows Box 1, for instance, at Dixon, January 26, at Wren, April 24, at Willshire, July 24, at Middlepoint, Oct. 23, and so on until it has visited

each station and returns to Dixon in January, 1915. (Between visits the box is always returned to the central library.) But before it is sent to Dixon again, the books in the box are replaced by an entirely new collection. While the collection as a whole is changed at this particular time, during its four years of travel it is kept up-to-date by fresh books, which replace those worn out or dropped for special reasons. Since this method of refilling each box every four years results in four new collections each year for the branches, the people using the branch libraries have at all times access to recent and well selected books. In order to put into operation this method by which four boxes may be refilled every year, it was at first necessary to have four collections replaced after the first year, four after the second year, four after the third year, since which time each collection is renewed every four years.

A study of the above schedule will also show that a box is received at the central library and sent out every five days. The dates and the numbers of the boxes to be refilled are taken from the schedule and for ready reference are grouped under each year. To illustrate:

1911 { Feby. 18 — Box 6  
       { May 25 — Box 7  
       { Aug. 31 — Box 8  
       { Dec. 5 — Box 9

1912 { Jan. 1 — Box 14  
       { Apr. 11 — Box 16  
       { July 6 — Box 15  
       { Oct. 19 — Box 17

In 1915 the above is repeated.

In 1916 the above is repeated.

#### BRANCH LIBRARIANS

##### *Willshire Branch.*

Ellsworth Brown, hardware store, Feb. 19, 1901 — Feb. 1, 1909.

Jesse L. Crowe, restaurant, Feb. 4, 1909 — Dec. 5, 1909.

W. W. Parks, drug store, Feb. 14, 1910, to date.

##### *Ohio City Branch.*

J. A. Swoveland, drug store, March 7, 1901 — July 1, 1903.

H. M. Agner, drug store, Jan. 1, 1903 — July 1, 1904.

J. A. Swoveland, drug store, July 1, 1904, to date.

*Convoy Branch.*

D. W. Leslie, drug store, March 11, 1901, to date.

*Middlepoint Branch.*

H. A. Mohler, drug store, March 12, 1901, to date.

*Delphos Branch.*

Jane Brotherton	}	law office, March 14, 1901 — Jan. 13, 1913.
Mary Brotherton		
Mrs. B. J. Brotherton		

Delphos public library, April 7, 1913, to date.

*Venedocia Branch.*

Jones & Jones, hardware store, May 17, 1901 — Oct. 21, 1903.

D. J. Evans, post office, Oct. 21, 1903, to date.

*Cavett Branch.*

W. M. Hoaglin, general store, June 3, 1901 — Sept. 16, 1910.

C. L. Gordon, general store, Sept. 16, 1910, to date.

*Dasie Branch.*

L. B. Springer, general store, May 25, 1901, to date.

*Hutchinson Branch.*

C. L. Gordon, general store, Dec. 31, 1901 — Aug. 1, 1909.  
(Closed)

*Wetsel Branch.*

Dr. J. Wolfe, office, Jan. 8, 1902 — Aug. 11, 1909.

F. C. Myers, general store, Aug. 11, 1909 — Sept. 15, 1911.

C. Ditto, general store, Sept. 15, 1911, to date.

*Glenmore Branch.*

James R. Conn, general store, July 25, 1902 — Sept. 15, 1903.

L. S. Cully, general store, July 1, 1901 — Jan. 23, 1905.

Franklin Myers, general store, Jan. 23, 1905 — Jan. 1, 1906.

Charles W. Kiracofe, general store, Jan. 1, 1906 — April 1, 1911.

F. C. Germann, general store, April 1, 1911, to date.

*Converse Branch.*

R. W. Hance, Farmers' Grocery, Aug. 12, 1902, to date.

*Scott Branch.*

Mrs. Alice Reeb, Fasig drug store, Feb. 10, 1903 — June 1, 1907.

W. M. Merlin, general store, Aug. 12, 1907 — Nov. 1, 1909.

W. F. Leidy, drug store, Nov. 22, 1909, to date.

*Dixon Branch.*

Charles Hoeken, post office, Feb. 13, 1903, to date.

*Wren Branch.*

Mrs. Arthur Swoveland, drug store, Feb. 19, 1903 — Feb. 1, 1907.

Mrs. C. C. Bowen, drug store, Feb. 1, 1907 — Feb. 19, 1909.

F. M. German, telephone exchange, April 2, 1909 — July 1, 1913.

Dudley & Dull, general store, July 1, 1913, to date.

*Elgin Branch.*

Mrs. A. Pfeiffer, doctor's office, Oct. 20, 1904 — Nov. 1, 1905.

Bessie Hughes, private house, Sept. 25, 1905 — Dec. 1, 1908.

L. L. Wolfe, general store, Feb. 1, 1909 — Jan. 1, 1912.

B. B. Doughton, general store, Jan. 29, 1912 — May 1, 1912.

V. H. Strete, general store, Aug. 1, 1912 — Dec. 1, 1912.

Elvin Clark, general store, Feb. 24, 1913 — Sept. 17, 1913.

C. T. Clantz, general store, Sept. 17, 1913, to date.

## CHAPTER XIII

### SCHOOLS

**T**HE work of the schools is considered under the two heads: County Schools\* and Van Wert City Schools.

In studying the growth of the county library, it is interesting to note how spontaneously it spreads and propagates itself by offshoots, which, seeking outlet for their energies, finally take root in fresh fields of library activity. With judicious care and cultivation these tender little offshoots put forth by the main stock, finally become strong and hardy and in the end bear choicest fruit. In the fifth year of the library it happily became apparent that an offshoot from the main library had taken root in fallow soil. Hesitatingly but voluntarily came scattered requests from the teachers and pupils of the county schools for books, which requests were gladly welcomed and cordially granted. Special privileges were accorded any and all teachers of the county, and all possible encouragement was given to the movement tending to a cooperation of the county library and the county rural schools.

This work of the rural schools and of the schools of the small towns of the county, resulting in a circulation equal to or greater than that of the branches, is now an important factor in the activities of the library and is cared for in a special department by a special assistant at central library. The offshoot, to continue the analogy, finally became sturdy and strong and today is as productive of results as the parent stock or its branches.

\* County Schools refer to all schools outside of Van Wert City.

This chapter will trace this growth. It is necessary to remember here that, for reasons previously stated, only two borrowers' cards were at first issued to any one family, and not until 1908 was this limitation removed. In the second year of the library's operations, 1902, Mr. J. P. Sharkey, superintendent of the Van Wert schools, requested that his teachers might have teachers' cards. The request was granted by the Board. Furthermore, in order to give all the schools of the county equal opportunities with those of the city of Van Wert, it was decided to grant to any teacher in Van Wert County, making proper application, a special teacher's card entitling the holder to draw at one time four volumes for use in her school work. A number of the city teachers at once took advantage of the privilege, the result of which was an increased demand for good books for young people. However, at the end of the year but few county teachers had availed themselves of the opportunity, which is probably explained by the fact that few of them as yet knew of the arrangement. The close of another year — 1903 — showed a total of fifty-two of these teachers' cards issued, indicating that the knowledge and use of the special library privileges granted to the teachers had become more general, largely due to the efforts of the teachers themselves, since no attempt was made then, nor has any attempt been made since, by the library to thrust the privilege upon the teachers. Ministers and other special workers were now included among those entitled to special cards.

When in 1904 the records showed that fifty-eight teachers in the county schools outside of Van Wert city schools had special cards, it was evident that the teachers of the county, "leaders as they should be in all that tends to uplift and enlighten," were fast availing themselves of the opportunity offered them by the library. Most of the teachers came to the central library for their books, where they were invited



to go to the shelves and make their own selection. If, however, they desired the librarian to assist in the selection of books she was at their service. Because of the increasing interest on the part of the county teachers, in 1905 action was taken permitting all teachers of the county schools to have collections of books for their class-rooms, provided they kept accurate records of the circulation of these books. For this purpose the teachers are provided with necessary blanks, similar to those used by the branch librarians, also post cards for forwarding the monthly circulation to central library, which require simply the insertion of the number of volumes circulated and the teachers' signatures. Later in the work, it became the custom to send, at the end of each month, post cards to the ten teachers having the largest circulation for the month. Among the teachers who first made use of these school collections were Mr. Redfield, superintendent of the Willshire schools, who had books sent for the use of his teachers; Mr. J. M. Distler, who took books to his school near Middlepoint; and Mr. Ray Fife, teacher of a school near Cavett.

To show that the library appreciated the cooperation of the teachers, it was arranged to have a meeting of all teachers of the county at the library, but the project was not carried out until a later date and then with great success. A second meeting on a subsequent occasion was equally successful. The librarian, Miss Brotherton, in her report for 1906 says, "The use of the library by the county teachers and pupils is growing constantly. The circulation through the country schools marks one of the greatest developments of the year in the work. The day is swiftly passing when a teacher is content to teach a particular text-book rather than the subject, and with that day comes the closer cooperation of libraries and schools, each supplementing the work of the other."

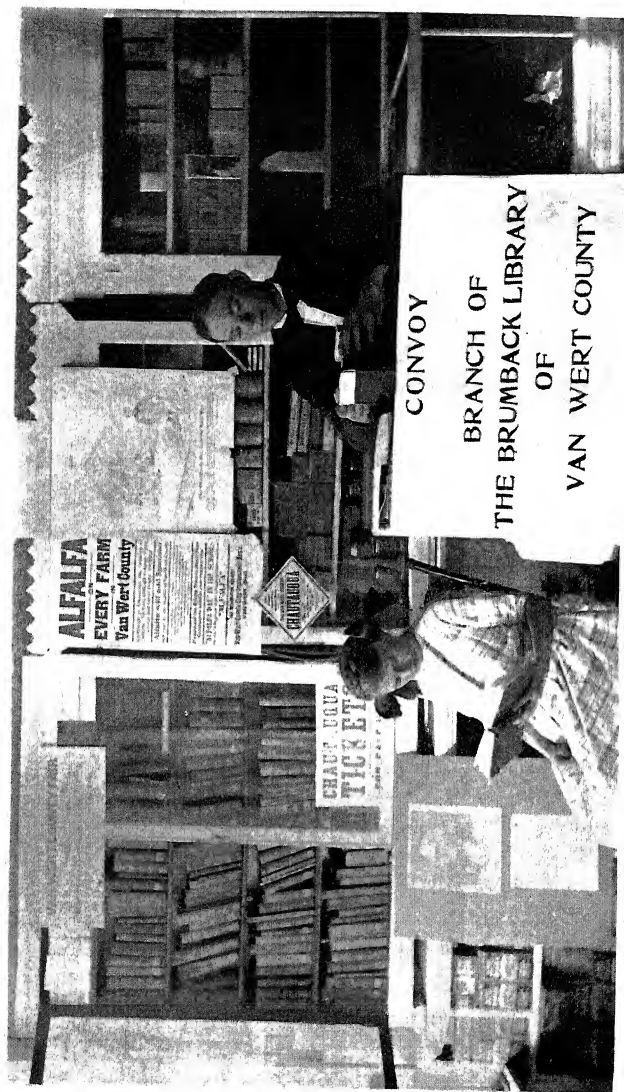
It became very evident that in order properly to care for

and encourage this rapidly growing work with the schools of the county, some systematic provision for it would have to be made. It had assumed such proportions that in 1906 the separate department of school libraries for the use of the country schools was established. This department was started on a small scale with less than 500 volumes. The collection was selected with great care from the list of books for boys and girls compiled by Miss Caroline N. Hewins and from other critical lists. Only books that were of true educational value were included, though stories and books of a popular nature were not excluded; no attempt was made to provide text-books or books for merely recreational reading. The surprising and unexpected demand for these school libraries by teachers of the county soon exhausted the special collection provided for this purpose, and made serious inroads on the general juvenile collection. In addition to meeting the teachers who came to the library, the librarian, by frequently attending the county teachers' institute sessions, came into personal touch with the teachers who had not as yet made use of the library's resources.

And now an old question, in new form, again presented itself, and again it was the situation at Delphos, explained elsewhere, which gave rise to it. This question was whether teachers who were non-residents of but teachers in Van Wert County might have library privileges; and on the other hand, whether teachers residents of Van Wert County but teaching in another county might have school-room collections. The ruling of the Board was that a teacher not a resident of, but teaching in, Van Wert County might have a school-room collection, but not a teacher's card; but that a teacher, a resident of the county but teaching in a school outside of Van Wert County, might have a teacher's card but not a school-room collection. Teachers making their abode in the county while teaching here have the same privileges during that period as any resident.

In 1907 the total number of special cards registered was 192. Every township in the county had at least one school library, some townships having as many as seven. The teachers of the county schools were doing truly remarkable work in carrying a knowledge of the library and its resources into their districts, some of these remote from the central library. Literally speaking, they "carried" this knowledge, for they took the books in cases and baskets or in bundles to their destination. The number of books taken varied from ten to fifty. The only rule governing the size of these collections is that they shall not exceed the number of pupils in the schools. A county teacher may keep a collection, as a whole or in part, for as long a period of the school year as he may desire, or he may exchange it, in whole or in part, as he desires. During this year there was an appreciable increase in the amount of reference work done at the central library for the county schools and stations. The circulation through the county school libraries showed a gain of 24% over that of the preceding year. The librarian says that "the books loaned to the teachers were chiefly of their own selection and the use made of them was especially praiseworthy." At this time the county school collection proper contained 678 volumes and during the year it was necessary to supplement it with 313 volumes from the shelves of the central library.

Statistics from the county school-libraries department in 1910 denoted a steady growth, although the actual number of volumes circulated was less than during the year previous. But this was the case in all of the departments owing to a mild epidemic of small-pox. As eloquent evidence of the progress in the school department, it is only needful to cite the two following instances in connection with its work. Mr. C. L. Shaffer, superintendent of the schools in Liberty Township, in the latter part of 1910, requested 200 books for distribution among his teachers. These were placed in his



LOCATION OF CONVOY BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR



LOCATION OF CONVOY BRANCH LIBRARY



LOCATION OF SCOTT BRANCH LIBRARY

office at Ohio City for the convenient use of the township teachers and of those in the Ohio City schools. Mr. Ray Fife, new supervisor of schools in Union and Tully townships, at about the same time, made a similar request, viz., for five collections of thirty-five volumes each, which he carried from school to school in his round of visits. Too much cannot be said in praise of superintendents, supervisors and teachers who show such interest and enthusiasm in their work as to be willing to assume added responsibility in their desire to raise the standards of their schools. When they appeal to the library for assistance in this work, the library is enabled better to fulfill its mission as a county library.

The following instance illustrates the personal interest and careful supervision of a township superintendent in connection with the schools under his care. He told the librarian he had made the discovery that in one of his schools the boys had got into the way of reading books of a "blood and thunder" type, and he asked her opinion as to how the matter could best be handled. She wisely suggested that he satisfy this natural craving of the boys for adventure by supplying them with wholesome books of adventure of the right sort and on subjects of interest to every normal boy. Accordingly, a list was made up including tales about Indians and the real West, stories of Daniel Boone and pioneer days, inspiring books of true heroism and real exploits. The teacher reported that the good books soon displaced the "cheap literature."

In this connection the following quotation is of interest:

... These statistics [circulation of the different departments for several years] tell their own most interesting and suggestive story. They plainly show that *good books carefully selected* will be read by the *people* and the *school children*, when placed within their reach. The great pity, as well as danger, is that unless *good books* are furnished, *bad ones* will be read. It is useless to rail against the evil of reading bad

books and provide nothing in their stead. A vacuum is abhorred in the moral as well as in the physical atmosphere. "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

The success of the County Library in Van Wert County furnishes an object lesson which should be carefully studied by all who have the welfare of the schools and the people at heart. Such a library is an important factor in solving many of the pressing problems in the intellectual and spiritual life of the people of both country and town.

We trust that the library may serve as a model for many other counties in Ohio, and that the great work which is being accomplished through it may furnish an incentive to other men of means to make bequests similar to that of Mr. Brumback, or to the people of the different counties to provide, in some manner, wholesome reading for the schools and homes in their territory. The small cost of maintenance would not be burdensome to anyone and the large value to all cannot be estimated in money.\*

In 1910 forty-nine school libraries were in use in the Van Wert County schools and in 1911 the number was increased to eighty-nine. The school collection numbering 863 volumes was augmented in 1911 to 2,206 volumes. In this same year 1,000 volumes were borrowed for a time from the State Library at Columbus, Ohio, to aid in carrying on the work with the county schools. Occasionally some parent or member of a school board objects to the use of the books in the school-room, but this objection usually arises from a misunderstanding of the purpose of the books. It is more frequently the case that books, taken from these school libraries by the children into their homes, are read by the parents and older brothers and sisters, and lead to a further interest in the library on the part of the older members of the family, resulting in new adult patrons for the library. There comes to mind, in this connection, a teacher who always asks for books for older readers for circulation in the surrounding country.

\* Excerpts from remarks by the Editor of the *Ohio Educational Monthly* of April, 1912, relative to an article on the Brumback Library.

The year 1912 saw 1,000 more volumes in the county schools, seventeen more teachers with school collections and a gain of 8,521 in circulation as compared with 1911. In considering the statistics of circulation it should be remembered that some of these school collections are used wholly for reference in the class-rooms and do not circulate. Miss Corinne Metz, who was librarian from the fall of 1909 to the spring 1913, has in the March, 1912, number of *Public Libraries* a very good article concerning the work of the library with the rural schools of the county, selections from which are herewith quoted:

The collections as a rule are returned in excellent condition, but we ask each teacher to give a talk to her pupils on the care of books and a brief sketch of their county library. The teachers report greater interest in such studies as geography and history as a result of supplementary reading on these subjects; better order and discipline where books are at hand for the restless parts of the day; and more rapid progress in reading when the simple readers and picture books are used with the youngest children.

The books included in the initial purchase for the school collections were books of recognized literary merit and sound ethical value. Since the department is primarily educational, these qualities are still considered in purchasing books for the schools, but we include a much wider range of subjects than at the beginning and occasionally add books which, though of slight value from a literary standpoint, are useful as stepping stones. Simple primers and picture books are most in demand, since the youngest pupils in the country schools are of necessity left much to themselves. Easy books on science and nature study are also popular, especially since the study of agriculture has been introduced into the schools of the state. Geography, history and biography are liked, while fairy tales and myths and legends are especially useful because they stimulate the child's imaginative faculties. "Thick" books are not popular and there is little demand for books for older boys and girls, since most of the country boys and girls of high school age attend the high school at Van Wert and the other towns of the county. This limits our selection to books



suitable for children between the ages of five and fourteen, and since the demand is similar in all the schools we duplicate freely. Lists of books of special interest to teachers are frequently printed in the daily papers and additional lists are struck off for general distribution. Recent examples are, "Some books on debating"; "Books on story telling"; lists compiled by other libraries are also used, notably the Cleveland graded lists for schools. The list compiled by Miss Kennedy and recommended by the Wisconsin Library Commission has been bought in quantities for distribution. With about 125 teachers in the county we shall consider 100 school stations a fair number, taking into account the proximity of some of the schools to the central library and the unwillingness of some of the teachers to do any extra work. The library is the natural meeting place for the county teachers; hence an effort is made to have them feel at home there.

Each year the personnel of the county teachers changes somewhat, some of the teachers dropping out and new ones taking their places. This renders it necessary each year to explain to the teachers how the library may be of assistance to them in their school work. The librarian does this usually through the agency of the county teachers' institutes held at Van Wert, by personal letters, by printed information or in any other way suggesting itself to her. It should be mentioned here that those in charge of the county institute work have at all times been most thoughtful in the extension of courtesies to the library and in giving the librarian opportunities to present the cause of the library. In return, the library has been careful not to abuse the privilege. Both institutions work side by side, each independent, and yet cooperating with one another to the advantage of both.

In August of 1913, having arranged with the committee in charge, the librarian invited the members of the county institute to come to the library for a social hour on Tuesday of institute week. They responded by coming in a body at the appointed time. In the words of the librarian, "Our aim was three-fold: (1) to show the teachers the library

and explain its facilities for helping the county teachers, (2) to obtain as complete a register as possible of those present for future use and (3) to promote and strengthen the friendly and cordial relationship existing between the teachers of the county and the library. We feel that we accomplished these three things to an even greater extent than had been hoped.

"For the accomplishment of the first, we simply put before their eyes as many evidences of our school work as possible, by having on display sample collections of books, juvenile lists for distribution, maps showing the county work, pictures for the use of schools, etc. For the second, we had suspended, from the low wall chandeliers, cards bearing the names of the twelve townships. Each teacher was requested to sign his name on the card of the township wherein was located his school. A tiny ribbon bow pinned on the teacher while signing helped indicate to the library assistants those who had signed the cards, thus enabling them to seek out and urge to do so those who had not. We thus obtained 113 names, while there were no doubt some who did not sign. The third purpose was accomplished by the informality of the whole affair and by the serving of refreshing lemonade and wafers. The only 'speech' was a very informal talk by the librarian, who explained the manner of obtaining and the use of school libraries."

Many teachers came during the remainder of institute week to select their school libraries. Cards bearing the following instructions are sent or given to all teachers.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES OF THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY OF VAN WERT COUNTY.  
HOW TO USE

1. Report to the librarian on the first day of each month the total number of books issued during the previous month. Keep the daily statistics on the blank provided for the purpose.
2. When a pupil borrows a book, write his name on the book card.

3. We prefer that the books be taken home by the children, but the teacher may use them in the school for reference or for supplementary reading.

4. State in your monthly report whether the books were used in school or taken home.

5. Principals and teachers are held responsible for the return of all books loaned them. Lost or mutilated books must be paid for. If leaves become loose or torn, put the book aside until the return of the collection.

6. Please do not deny a child full use of the books as a punishment for low standing or poor deportment.

7. Write to the librarian whenever you would like a bit of information on any subject. You can thus consult the library's reference books at any time by correspondence.

8. If at any time books on special subjects are needed, tell us.

9. Pictures, mounted and provided with hangers, can be borrowed for use in the school room.

As a result of No. 7, in the above, many questions are asked and answered. A few of these have been given in another place. Occasionally it takes the combined efforts of the school assistant and librarian to find answers to some of them. A recent question was, "How is a hay-stack weighed?" This was a little out of the librarian's line, but she "wrestled" with it until she could send the required information.

The three following letters are self-explanatory. The Ohio Legislature, in 1913, on the recommendation of a school commission that had thoroughly investigated educational conditions in the state, passed a comprehensive public school law, which goes into effect September, 1914. One of the requirements of this law is that every rural school shall have a collection of at least fifty books. Since the Brumback Library has for years been supplying the schools of Van Wert County with books, the State Superintendent was asked to permit the Brumback Library to furnish the rural schools the requisite number of books, which request was granted.



A RURAL SCHOOL IN VAN WERT COUNTY



A RURAL SCHOOL IN VAN WERT COUNTY



A RURAL SCHOOL IN VAN WERT COUNTY

This will save all the schools of the county the expense of buying a library, will give them well-selected books, will furnish them changing collections, will keep all books in repair and will enable the teachers to enjoy the benefit of expert library advice. In the past all the schools have not had library collections (this year the number is 86 out of 113), but in the future all the schools will be obliged to secure collections, which will make it possible for the library to do a greater work than has thus far been accomplished.

VAN WERT, OHIO, April 8, 1914.

To the Teachers and Trustees of Van Wert County Schools:—

One of the requirements of the new school law for a rural elementary school of the first grade is that it have a library of not less than fifty volumes.

As the following letters indicate, it will not be necessary for any of the rural schools of Van Wert County to purchase fifty volumes if they borrow them from the Brumback Library. The Library offers the further privilege of allowing the teachers to exchange the collections in whole or in part during the school year, and will keep the books in repair.

Yours truly,

THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRUMBACK LIBRARY OF VAN WERT  
COUNTY.

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VAN WERT, OHIO, April 7, 1914.

Mr. Frank Miller, Superintendent of Public Instruction,  
Columbus, Ohio.

My Dear Mr. Miller:—

The section of the School Laws, designated (e) of the requirements for a first grade rural elementary school, has been brought to our attention.

Van Wert County is taxed for library purposes.

Since 1906 The Brumback Library of Van Wert County has had a School-Libraries Department, from which any teacher in Van Wert County may borrow a school library, which collection of books he may exchange for different ones whenever he desires during the school year.

In this way 4,222 volumes were loaned to teachers of this county last year. This year 86 of the 113 schools of the county have availed themselves of this privilege of obtaining school libraries.

The Library maintains a high standard of selection of books for these school libraries, and the supply is constantly being renewed, replenished and supplemented.

It would therefore seem unnecessary for the rural schools of this county to have to raise funds to buy books for their schools in order to fulfill this clause of the new law, when the County Library has been provided to meet just such needs.

Therefore, in view of what we have already done and can do in the future, will you give us the authority to assure the teachers of this county that for them to obtain school library collections from the County Library will fulfill the requirements of the law in this respect.

Very truly yours,

J. P. REED,  
President of the Board of Trustees  
of the Brumback Library of Van  
Wert County.

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COLUMBUS, OHIO, April 8, 1914.

Mr. J. P. Reed, Van Wert, Ohio.

My Dear Sir:—

Your letter of April 7 has just been received. If a school can guarantee that it will always have the required number of books at hand, although it should get them from The Brumback Library, we will accept such a library as meeting the requirements.

Trusting that I have answered your question, I am

Very truly yours,

FRANK W. MILLER,  
Superintendent.

Locally the people are awake to the significance of the county unit idea and utilize it to a large degree in county development. In 1912 the Business Men's Association of Van Wert instituted a movement for "Boosting Van Wert

County." This was an essay contest to be participated in by all the schools of the county on the subject: "Possibilities of Van Wert County," "Possibilities of Van Wert," "Boosting Van Wert," "How Best to Promote the Mutual Interests of our City and County," "Why We Should Buy Goods at Home," "Why We are Proud of Van Wert County," "The Van Wert of Tomorrow." It was announced that —

"The object of this movement is to promote good feeling, loyalty to home interests, and the prosperity and general welfare of all the people in Van Wert County. It is our purpose to make our children realize what splendid resources are at hand and to help all to see more clearly the boundless possibilities of our county, so that we may build for the future. The county fair, the county library, the county Chautauqua are each and all for the same general good. These institutions are neither selfish nor mercenary, but broad and liberal. They promote culture, happiness and good citizenship. The present movement is along the same line, and will you not give your loyal cooperation and support to these interests of the best county in Ohio?"

Many prizes, which were articles of merchandise varying in price from two to five dollars, were offered by the different business firms: four to each class of the Van Wert high school; four to each of the grades of the Van Wert schools; four to each of the county towns; four to the schools of each township exclusive of the town schools of the townships; a first and a second prize to all pupils in the above over twelve years of age and a first and second prize to those in the above under twelve years. Sweepstake prizes were also given: \$15 for the best essay from the Van Wert high school; \$10 for the best essay from the Van Wert grade schools; \$10 for the best essay from the towns outside of Van Wert; \$10 for the best essay from the townships.



Prizes were awarded at the Auditorium in the city of Van Wert, Dec. 16, 1911. All contestants were urged to be present and were addressed by Hon. A. P. Sandles, secretary of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture, who also awarded the prizes. Four sets of judges, each set comprising three members, passed on the large number of essays, which according to the rules governing the contest, had been deposited at the Brumback Library on or before December 1, 1911. Whether or not the giving of prizes in all cases is a proper incentive, in this case it proved advantageous.

In this day a great deal is heard about conservation of energy. Much that formerly went to waste or lay dormant is now utilized. This applies not only to the forces of nature but to the powers of man as well. It is fully expected of man in his work that he get maximum results with a minimum of effort; in short, that efficiency characterize his activities. To promote efficiency on the farm, a law was passed in Ohio requiring the teaching of agriculture in the schools. Efficiency on the farm is also promoted through extension school work. As a result of this law and these extension schools, there is an increasing demand at the library for books on agriculture.

As briefly explanatory of some of the work done in Van Wert County by way of extension schools, part of an article from a Van Wert paper of Nov. 8, 1911, is given.

Various departments of the Ohio State University have for some time been engaged in widening the scope of the institution by establishing extension schools at different county-seats, thus bringing instruction to the door of those who have no opportunity to go to the university.

The latest department of the university to take up this work is the college of education. It is following closely the plan adopted by the agricultural department, which sent to this county last year a corps of very efficient instructors, who are arranging to visit here again. Van Wert is fortunate in being one of the chosen places for a proposed school.

On account of the present pressing demand of teachers for instruction in elementary agriculture, practically all the time of the school will be devoted to this one subject. The work is intended primarily for the teachers of rural and village schools; and will be adapted especially for use in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades, although teachers who are teaching or who expect to teach agriculture in the high school for the first time will find the course helpful.

The nature of the work will be very practical from the teacher's point of view. The course will be illustrated, and the exercises in elementary agriculture will be of such a character that the teachers may make immediate use of them in their schools. Those who attend this school will not only get something definite to teach in agriculture, but will also be given the correct methods of teaching it.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARIES

In January, 1912, it was decided to try the experiment of placing small collections of books in several of the more isolated rural churches, with the idea of serving portions of the county not hitherto reached by the central library or any of its stations. The location of the churches was carefully considered and collections were forwarded to Sunday school superintendents or other officials after arrangements had been previously made with them personally to oversee the work. The degree of interest on the part of the people in these collections varied greatly; e. g., in one case a second collection was requested with a definite statement of what was desired, while in another case there was not a great deal of active interest displayed. Owing to the pressure of work on all sides no special effort will be made for the present to extend this work except as pressing need arises justifying additional trouble and expense.

That there are great possibilities in this field of work goes without saying. For example, by keeping in close touch with the many Sunday school conventions held each year in all parts of the county, the library has an excellent opportunity for furthering the cause of good and helpful books.

At the central library some work has been done for Sunday school workers by preparing and distributing printed lists of books dealing with the Sunday school lessons and by placing the books where they can be readily consulted. Notices in the county papers and announcements by the ministers in their pulpits assist in making this arrangement known.

#### CITY SCHOOLS

The most cordial relations have at all times existed between the Van Wert schools and the library, and it is due in a measure to their hearty cooperation that the library is able to extend its usefulness to so large an extent to the young people of the community. The schools of the city depend entirely upon the library for reference material and for books for supplementary reading and study. The busiest parts of the day are those which follow the closing of school and the evening hours. The library is fortunately located within two hundred yards of the high school building, which renders it easily accessible to the high school pupils, almost all of whom are now able to do a great part of their own reference work, needing only occasional suggestions as to the finding of what might not be readily discoverable.

Skill in the use of reference books as well as "library tools" has been acquired by the pupils through instruction more or less formally given by the librarian. In the earlier years this instruction was imparted at the schools, but in recent years it has been the custom for the pupils to come to the library to secure a working knowledge of the library. To this end the principal of the high school makes out a schedule for the Freshman class, which usually numbers about 120, and in groups of ten they come to the library, where the librarian gives each group an hour. The latter is much the preferable way since pupils can more readily understand explanations with respect to the arrangement

of books on the shelves and the use of the card catalogue, indexes and the more important reference books when all these are at hand. Questions on this work are prepared by the librarian for inclusion in the examinations in the Freshman English course.

It is the purpose of the library also to do some such work with the upper grades, for the child who leaves school before he reaches high school will, in after years, have the greater need of the library. If he has acquired a working knowledge of the resources of a well-equipped library he can apply this to his advantage in making up for his lost schooling.

To facilitate the work with the schools, certain books are withheld temporarily from circulation at the request of teachers, for use at the library only, in order that all concerned may have equal opportunities in consulting them. Furthermore, in a floor case provided for the purpose are placed the books which the several high school teachers desire their pupils to use in connection with their class work. For several years it has been the custom of the principal of the high school to compile a "Home Reading Book List" for the use of the high school pupils. This list is given in pamphlet form with a cut of the high school on one cover and of the library on the other, and under the name of each teacher appear the books on which he will receive reviews from the pupils. For 1913 the number of books was 100, of pupils 340, of teachers 12.

The High School Principal, Mr. Orrin Bowland, issued the following to pupils.

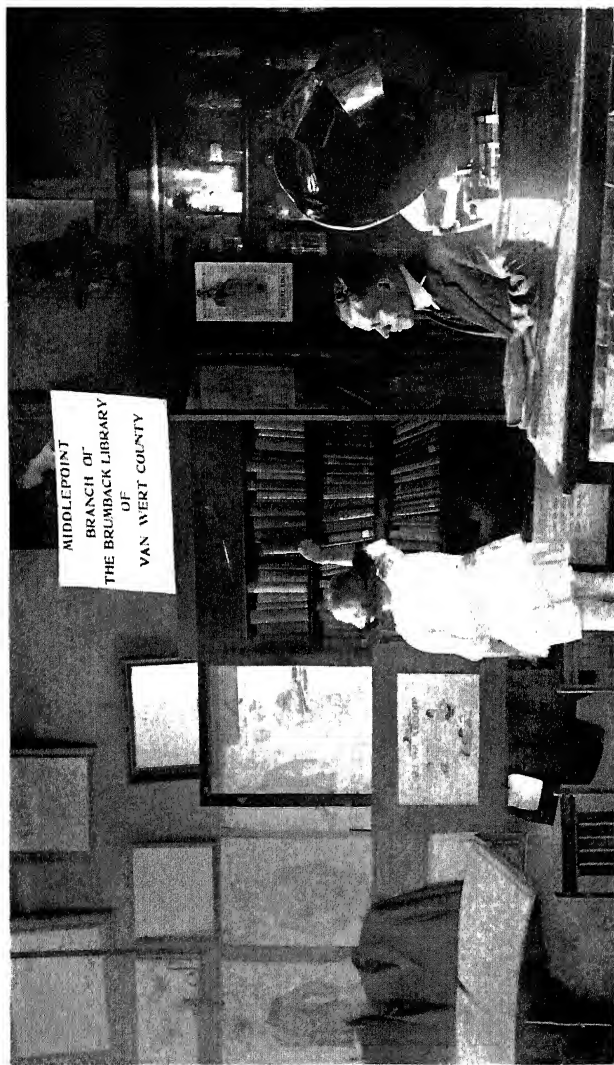
Nine years ago an attempt was made to supervise the home reading of our high school pupils. The plan adopted proved so successful and the results have been so satisfactory that it has now become a regular part of the high school course. The present list, containing about one hundred titles, is the fifth revision. Much time and care have been given in making the selections and we believe that these books are all good,

wholesome and suitable for young people. We want you to read at home four of them a year, one each quarter. On at least two days, each quarter, reviews and reports will be heard. Then the pupil and teacher are to have a friendly and informal talk about the book read. A record is kept and graduates are given a typewritten list of books thus read and reviewed with a credit statement signed by the Principal and Superintendent.

Report to the teacher under whose name the book is listed. The figures 1, 2, 3, 4, indicate the year in which the books should be read. However, with the approval of the pupil's teacher in English, a latitude of one year either way is permitted.

The classics sufficient to fully meet college entrance requirements are read in the class-room and are not in this list. The books in this list are all found in the Brumback Library, and Miss Holding, the librarian, and her three assistants are always ready and willing to aid pupils in their reading and reference work. We are indeed fortunate in having this helpful institution located near, and you must not fail to improve the splendid opportunity which the library and the high school together afford.

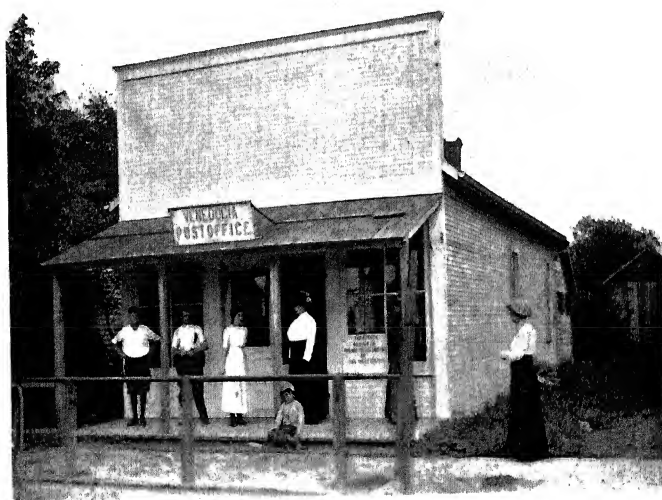
Owing to the proximity of the library to the schools, school-room collections have not been needed, especially for older pupils. But on the suggestion of Mrs. Conn, the library assistant in charge of the school department, who was at one time a primary teacher in the city schools, it was decided to make a trial of placing small collections in the first four grades of the four ward schools. At a meeting of the sixteen teachers of these grades this plan was submitted and approved with the result that a carefully selected collection of ten volumes is loaned to each of the sixteen teachers and by her loaned to the pupils for home reading. At the end of two months the books are returned to the library for repairs, statistics are taken from the book cards and the collection is sent on to the next teacher of the same grade. The results shown by the second year of this experiment are such that it is to be repeated. The teachers express their appreciation of the privilege, while the children are



LOCATION OF MIDDLEPOINT BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR



LOCATION OF MIDDLEPOINT BRANCH LIBRARY



LOCATION OF VENEDOCIA BRANCH LIBRARY

more than pleased. The chief objections urged thus far are that the collections are too small and that some of the books are wanted for a longer period than the allotted two months.

The circulation on these 160 books from November to June was 5,732, or thirty-six circulations for each book. Needless to say, the books were much worn and many were in need of replacement, but since nearly all of them are small and inexpensive the cost per circulation is slight. If the entire collection had to be replaced at fifty cents per copy the cost per circulation would be little more than a cent and a half; while if only half of the books had to be replaced the cost would be still further reduced. The time and effort will be fully repaid when these little folk become regular library patrons at the age of nine years.

On several occasions the library has observed what it called "College Week." To quote from the report of Miss Jane Brotherton, one of the former librarians, "College Week was celebrated the week commencing June 4, 1906. Its object was to call the attention of the high school pupils to the advantages and opportunities of a college course, as offered at the different colleges and universities, particularly those of our own state. Through the cooperation of former college students and the officials of the colleges and universities, we had on display college catalogues, photographs of college scenes, buildings and organizations, and college pennants; in fact, everything we could collect suggestive of the best and most attractive features of college life. On our display shelves we placed a collection of books treating of the colleges, and a list of the most popular periodical articles on the subject. It was our second annual college week and the interest shown would warrant us in making it a regular feature of our work. A letter from the president of one of our best universities expresses the attitude of the colleges themselves toward such a display. In this letter he



says, 'What a capital idea this is! I am very glad to aid you to the best of my ability in carrying this out.' "

The large number of young men and women who go to college from Van Wert County indicates that the many and varied efforts on the part of the library and schools to acquaint the young people of the county with the educational resources of the state and nation have not been in vain.

Among the valuable educational privileges enjoyed by the teachers, pupils and general public of Van Wert County are those afforded by the city and county teachers' institutes. Van Wert is fortunately in a circuit of several cities visited by some of the best educators and speakers of the day, who come with special messages for the inspiration and encouragement of their listeners. In 1911 Dr. P. P. Claxton, National Commissioner of Education, came to Van Wert to address the institute. At this time he visited the Brumback Library and took note of its county work, with the result that shortly afterwards an article from the National Bureau of Education was published in which Dr. Claxton commended the county library idea and praised the successful operation of the Brumback Library in its county activities. The publication of this article or extracts from it in papers and periodicals in many parts of the country aroused, because of its source, great interest in libraries for the people in rural communities all over the country, and gave a decided impetus to the county library movement. In the next chapter selections from this article are given.

## CHAPTER XIV

### FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

IT HAS been made plain that the work of the Brumback Library has been to supply with library service the 12,825 people of the two cities and eight towns and the 16,294 people of the farms of Van Wert County, a territory of 405 square miles.

Now, the question arises, what of the future? Will the library retrograde, hold its own, or make further progress? Retrogression would be a misfortune. Holding its own would be creditable. "Billy Sunday" tells a story of two Irishmen who were walking to London town. After having been on the way for a time they came to a guide-post which said "Twenty miles to London." Encouraged by this information they continued on their journey. In a short while they were greeted by another guide-post, which read, — "Twenty miles to London." Drawing their belts up another notch they pressed onward with grim determination. When a third guide-post confronted them — "Twenty miles to London" — Pat exclaimed, "Begorra, we 're holding our own!"

If the library should simply hold its own in the future it would be doing well, but it will do more than this. It will continue to make progress, although progress should be slow for the reason that in any movement that has to do with social service each step must be preceded by a preparation, and even a demand, for the step taken. The quickest way to interrupt progress along any line is to thrust upon the people something for which they are not prepared and which they do not demand. For example, if the Brumback Library

had from the beginning put into operation in rapid succession all of the innovations that characterize its thirteen years of history, the result would have been —

(1) The antagonism of other county institutions would have been aroused, which would have greatly handicapped the library in its work.

(2) Students of economy would have seen from a study of the work that accomplishments were hardly commensurate with their cost.

(3) An enduring foundation would not have been laid for future activities.

But, as a matter of fact, the work has been such that the library has at all times had the cooperation of other county institutions and develops unity in county activities; the most exacting economist cannot point to a single year during which large results have not been obtained with the money expended; and an enduring foundation has been laid for future development.

Today with an enthusiastic Board of Trustees and a hard-working library staff, with a well-balanced collection of almost 25,000 volumes adapted to the needs of its constituency, with a first-class library plant and equipment, with fifteen branch libraries well distributed over the county, all in the hands of good custodians, with nearly all of the 113 schools of the county using collections of books during the school year, with scores of clubs, societies and other organizations working in harmony with the library, with an annual income not so large as could be used but yet an income that has gradually increased with the years, the library is ready for other advance steps.

A future possibility which might be considered would be the employment of a library field-worker, which would make for greater progress, since his work would be that of looking after the outside interests of the library throughout the county in a systematic way. A library field-worker, to

be an unqualified success, would have to understand human nature, be well educated, possess enthusiasm for his work and above all have tact. In his activities he would take care not to trespass on the work of the teacher or of any organization, nor would he assume any of the prerogatives of the librarian proper, who has supervision of all the work of the library. He would be subject to the direction of the librarian the same as any other member of the staff and his work should be in perfect harmony with the policy adopted by the Board and put into operation by the librarian.

He would make frequent visits during the year to the fifteen branches of the library and in all possible ways assist them in their efforts to do better work. He would go among the schools of the county and do all he could to aid each school in the most profitable use of the library. He would aim to develop the habit of reading the best books and promote the serviceability of the library in those parts of the county that might lag somewhat behind other parts of the county. He would cooperate with the County Fair, the County Chautauqua, the County Y. M. C. A., the County Sunday School Association, farmers' and teachers' institutes and all other distinctively county organizations that are not operated for a profit but for uplift purposes.

All this has been and is being done to a large extent, but with the aid of a field-worker it could be done more effectively.

There are great possibilities for the cooperation of the county library and the county schools in the field of debate work. Many teachers of the district schools, both young women and young men, frequently have in their schools spirited debates on subjects of the day. These are always interesting and the mere announcement of a debate in one of the school houses of the country means a large audience. The demand for debate material at the library is continuous throughout the school year. The collection of debate books

is much in use and sometimes books are temporarily hidden by too zealous contestants that their opponents may suffer a handicap. There is also a constant request for debate material by correspondence and the librarian sometimes finds that on the same day she has mailed briefs of arguments on the opposing sides of the same question to distant debaters.

It would be possible to arrange for all the townships of the county to have annual debates, with a great final contest of the winners at the county-seat once each year. There is not so much debating as there was some years ago, and yet there is more demand now for efficiency in public speaking than at any other time in our national history. Already eighteen states have adopted the Initiative and Referendum and have made representative government subordinate to popular rule. In these states the people are legislators. This being the case, it is incumbent on all the people to inform themselves on the questions of the day, and the spoken word has always been and will ever continue to be one of the most effective means of instructing the people. It is necessary then to develop more speakers if direct legislation is to be made a success, and there is no better way to develop speakers than by means of debates. A rivalry among the townships would quickly reflect itself in all of the schools of the county and the result would be the development of a generation of men and women who would be remarkably at home before an audience. At the same time, the people of the various communities would hear and become interested in arguments on the issues of the day demanding their attention.

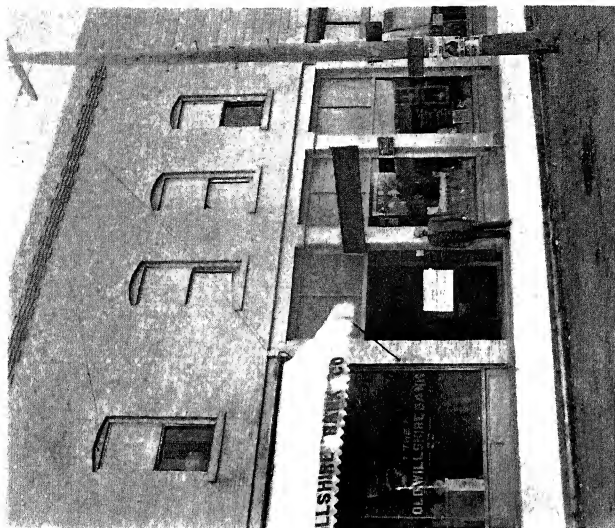
Last fall eleven boys belonging to the Freshman class of the Van Wert high school played a game of football with eleven boys from the Freshman class of the high school of a neighboring town. These boys were only from thirteen to sixteen years of age, but their playing was a revelation. Not



LOCATION OF WETSEL BRANCH LIBRARY



LOCATION OF  
WETSEL BRANCH LIBRARY, INTERIOR



LOCATION OF  
WILLSHIRE BRANCH LIBRARY

a boy was hurt, though some of the clever plays which characterize the games of the college elevens these boys used with the dexterity of adults.

If boys, under the spell of the inspiration that comes from the colleges and universities, can be trained to such perfection in athletic contests, they can be trained to a high degree of proficiency in debates, musical performances, declamations, etc., if the inspiration is forthcoming, and the county library is in a position to aid in supplying this inspiration to the county.

Other advance steps would be the use of moving pictures, especially for the benefit of the rural schools and smaller county towns, and cooperation with the movements in the county or its several communities which express the higher social interests. Then, too, if in centralized schools or township houses provision were made for a reading-room for the use of the community, the county library could most effectively supply the books and aid in the development of both township and county spirit.

#### THE COUNTY LIBRARY, A CLEARING HOUSE OF BOOKS \*

Every inhabitant of the United States, no matter how far from the centers of population, will have practically as good library facilities as are now enjoyed by the average city dweller, if plans for the establishment of a new type of book-distributing agency work out according to the anticipations of the United States Commissioner of Education, Dr. P. P. Claxton, who is personally interested in their development. As the rural population of the United States numbers about 55 per cent of the total population, the new library plan may have the effect of doubling the effectiveness of libraries, and of raising the standard of culture in this country to a corresponding degree.

The basis of the new scheme of book distribution is the establishment of libraries supported not by the state, city, or town, as at present, but by the county, with a central clearing-house and branches at every postoffice, town-hall, school, or

\* From the U. S. Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.



other center of community life. Under this plan, many sections of the country which at present have no libraries will be enabled to establish them. If a given county has no community large enough to support a library unaided, the county library plan will enable all the communities to club their resources by levying a county tax for library purposes, a free use of the books so obtained being insured by a system of branches maintained at common meeting places. Thus every time a rural resident goes to the nearest store, or every time his child goes to school, he will find a well-equipped library at his elbow.

Like the traveling libraries maintained by a number of states, the county library aims to find "a book for every man, and a man for every book." Although the two institutions have much in common, the more restricted territory covered by the county library allows it to adapt itself more closely to local needs than is possible for the state book-distributing agency.

The county library plan has already been put into successful operation in Van Wert County, Ohio. . . .

"I consider the county library plan an important step in the educational development of this country," said Dr. Claxton yesterday. "As is well known, the schooling of most persons is of such short duration that their cultural development must be obtained principally by their own efforts from books, and any plan which will increase the number and availability of the books at their command will naturally be an important factor in raising the standard of the average person's education.

"Generally speaking, the cities of the United States are well supplied with library facilities. However, there still remains the great problem of giving the rural citizen the same opportunities of contact with the world of books as are enjoyed by his city brother. Personally, I believe that the inhabitants of rural districts profit even more from reading than do those who live in our centers of population. My own experience, as well as that of other educators, has been that country people read better books than town folk; they read better books, and get more out of them.

"The ultimate effect of aiding the reading habit among the rural citizens, therefore, may readily be not only to increase the number of readers in this country but also to raise the standard of reading, and consequently the standards of life and culture."

Dr. Claxton went on to say that his advocacy of the county library was based on his personal observation of the Brumback Library of Van Wert County, Ohio, which is at present one of the few institutions of this kind in the country. . . .

The kind of books read by the country people of Van Wert County are of an unusually high character. . . .

Van Wert County provides that the whole world of books is brought to the very doorsteps of the remotest farmstead in its borders by a clearing-house system of libraries which Commissioner Claxton wishes to see in equally successful operation throughout the United States.

## CHAPTER XV

### TABLES OF STATISTICS

WHILE statistics may, in a measure, be self-explanatory, they are also frequently misleading. It is therefore necessary to bear a few facts in mind in the consideration of the tables dealing with the work of the Brumback Library.

1. The statistics do not in any way exaggerate the work but rather tend to underrate results, as later explanations will show.

2. In all cases it should be remembered that the rule allowing but two borrowers' cards to any one family remained in force until 1908 and necessarily limited the circulation accordingly.

3. All statistics apply only to books taken from the central library, branches, and schools *to the homes*, and do not include books used in reference, reading and school rooms.

4. Finally, the work of the library cannot as fairly be represented by figures as by what it has accomplished in establishing itself and in making its resources available throughout the entire county.

The table on page 213 shows 11,070 registered borrowers, who are not, by any means, all the borrowers using the library.

1. This number does not include those borrowing books from the county school libraries, although the use of the books in the schools in 1913 represented a circulation of 21,773 volumes. No record of these borrowers had ever been sought until the fall of 1913, when the names of the pupils using the school collections were obtained from the teachers. In checking these names with the application file but three

out of 392 are found registered so far. Out of 2,435 names, it would be safe to say that 2,400 have never been registered as borrowers.

2. All residents of Delphos taking advantage of the privileges of their public library may use the books and periodicals furnished by the Brumback County Library. However, without a complicated system it is not possible to determine just how many Delphos borrowers chance to use these books. In the course of a year it is likely that every one of them will have had county library books and periodicals. At present the number of Delphos borrowers is 1,035. Of this number 385 were originally registered as borrowers of the Brumback branch. This would leave 650 of their borrowers using the county library books and periodicals of whom no record has been kept.

3. It does not include as borrowers the pupils in the first four grades of the four city ward schools, whose use of the books of the sixteen collections in the school year 1912-1913 represented a circulation of 5,732 volumes. Since the 654 pupils of the sixteen school-classes are all under nine years of age, they are not registered as borrowers.

4. If all the foregoing were added to the registered borrowers the total number of borrowers would be 14,774.

Under the new school law of Ohio, referred to in the preceding chapter, pages 192-193, the number of pupils in the rural schools of the county that will be library borrowers will be greatly increased, since the Brumback Library will have a collection of at least fifty books in every one of the 101 rural schools. At the present time the twelve graded schools of the county have library collections. So, with the beginning of next fall (1914), when the school law goes into effect, the Brumback Library as headquarters will serve the book needs of 113 schools, and all the 6,000 pupils of the county will enjoy library privileges. This of course will add greatly to the constituency of the library, which now conservatively represents over 50 per cent of the county's population.

Reference to the map will show the location of the 113 schools, as well as of the fifteen branches and the four Sunday school libraries. And a study of the map will reveal the fact that there is not a section of the country, however remote, that will not enjoy library privileges.

The most interesting work in any library is naturally the

work with the schools, since pupils respond so intelligently and enthusiastically to the helpful stimuli that emanate from the library.

A recent writer told of a high school girl in a town of over 5,000 inhabitants that did not have a free public library, who, although she came from a very good family and was an excellent student, asserted that she never in her life had read a single book outside of the books in her school course.

The table of accessions on page 213 does not include several thousand unaccessioned government documents.

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Number of Volumes.....	6,572	8,301	9,373	9,871	10,813	13,919	15,052	15,674	16,666	18,646	20,825	22,347	23,319
Total Borrowers.....	2,713	3,552	4,423	5,084	5,729	6,345	6,872	7,589	8,373	8,989	9,628	10,385	11,070*
Registered at Central Library.....	1,433	2,080	2,758	3,196	3,598	3,924	4,255	4,951	5,664	6,190	6,728	7,346	7,854
Registered from Branches.....	1,280	1,472	1,665	1,888	2,140	2,421	2,617	2,638	2,709	2,799	2,900	3,039	3,216

\* Total borrowers (1913), 14,774; Registered, 11,070; Unregistered but Active, 3,704.

The circulation from the central library not only represents the books taken by Van Wert City residents and by the pupils in the first four grades of the four ward schools, but includes the circulation of books taken by some of the residents of the county outside of the city corporation. Therefore, the total circulation in the county outside of Van Wert City is represented by that of the county stations (14,124) and county schools (21,773) *plus* some of the central library circulation. Residents of the county living outside of Van Wert, the county-seat, are coming more and more to use the central library itself, since the more general use of electric railways and automobiles permits more frequent visits to the central library by those living at a distance.

The circulation of the county schools does not include that of the Van Wert City schools.

In 1910 an epidemic of a contagious disease in Van Wert reduced the statistics in all departments.

In 1913 the circulation through the branches and county schools was somewhat less owing to the spring flood which paralyzed traffic for a time in Ohio.

Other known causes have at times affected the circulation in the county as a whole or in certain of its localities. One or more branches are sometimes closed for a period pending change of location, etc.

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Total Circulation.....	27,562	31,758	39,894	44,641	48,617	54,701	58,818	63,182	61,847	56,161	73,620	84,088	90,853
Central Library.....	27,562	29,229	28,248	32,074	35,581	37,204	38,641	41,696	42,402	38,625	41,805	44,887	54,956
County Branches.....	.....	2,529	11,646	12,567	13,036	15,794	16,661	17,105	15,584	14,572	16,528	15,393	14,124
County Schools.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,703	3,516	4,381	3,861	2,964	15,287	23,808	21,773
Total Per Cent Adult Fiction.....	.....	57.6	60.	57.03	55.56	54.16	53.45	55.54	54.14	52.91	46.32	36.47	38.2
Central Library.....	.....	57.6	60.	59.12	56.37	57.1	58.4	59.83	58.57	55.64	52.39	47.95	45.15
County Branches.....	.....	.....	.....	50.79	53.2	57.8	54.	56.46	54.64	57.1	53.07	53.75	57.03
County Schools.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.	4.05	4.9	4.62	5.11	1.69	1.41	1.14
Total Per Cent Adult Classed.....	.....	12.07	12.4	14.21	12.91	14.86	12.02	12.42	12.93	13.34	13.7	10.87	9.78
Central Library.....	.....	12.07	12.4	12.8	11.85	11.8	12.8	13.33	13.81	14.15	14.84	14.08	12.05
County Branches.....	.....	.....	.....	18.58	16.	13.9	13.	11.31	12.35	13.	16.86	15.23	12.58
County Schools.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.3	8.32	6.79	5.84	5.41	1.9	1.38	.36
Total Per Cent Juvenile.....	.....	30.33	27.6	28.76	31.53	30.98	34.53	32.04	32.93	33.75	40.	52.65	51.98
Central Library.....	.....	30.33	27.6	28.1	31.78	31.1	28.8	26.84	27.62	30.21	32.77	37.97	42.8
County Branches.....	.....	.....	.....	30.63	30.8	28.3	33.	32.23	33.02	29.9	30.07	31.02	30.39
County Schools.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	87.7	87.53	88.32	89.54	89.5	96.41	97.21	98.5



In considering the branch libraries' circulation the fact should not be forgotten that the many school libraries, established in 1906, in the vicinity of the branches may have had a tendency to reduce the circulation through the branches, since the children naturally used the former more freely. It was expected that the school libraries would largely affect the branch circulation, and it was a pleasing surprise to find the branches holding their own remarkably well.

In 1913, pending changes made in business rooms where the branches are located, four county stations were closed in the aggregate eight months, resulting in eight months' loss of circulation.

	Popu- lation	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Cavett†	.....	.....	433	299	338	417	219	223	283	192	366	252	279
Converse†	.....	141	583	520	476	530	496	681	743	587	622	596	708
Convoy	741	207	1,419	1,463	1,465	1,876	2,737	4,029†	3,866	2,716	2,958	2,680	2,556
Dacie†	.....	188	450	559	488	446	537	477	468	469	539	490	518
Delphos*	5,038	517	938	701	699	2,547†	3,233	2,905	2,518	2,636	2,308	2,006	1,745
Dixon†	.....	.....	516	514	453	477	633	544	387	289	323	282	213
Elgin	129	.....	.....	143	645	369	376	241	488	365	388	310	488
Glenmore†	.....	69	488	543	389	442	512	436	324	462	564	736	660
Hutchison†	.....	21	317	372	358	294	297	285	110	.....	.....	.....	.....
Middlepoint	607	96	877	817	701	938	1,127	862	834	1,081	1,745	1,644	800
Ohio City	860	558†	622	1,318	1,816	2,195	1,331	1,171	1,534	1,633	1,355	1,305	1,320
Scott*	279	.....	1,922†	2,052	2,192	2,162	2,230	2,400	1,684	1,512	2,042	2,128	1,521
Venedocia	247	.....	335	567	679	557	736	692	500	411	369	293	410
Wetsel†	.....	406	483	668	536	604	560	402	638	510	587	440	228
Willshire	653	326	1,652	1,167	1,133	1,374	1,221	1,228	727	1,257	1,985	1,897	1,849
Wren	277	.....	611	864	668	668	416	529	480	452	377	334	829
Total	.....	2,529	11,646	12,567	13,036	15,894	16,661	17,105	15,584	14,572	16,528	15,393	14,124

\* Scott population { Van Wert Co., 279.  
Paulding Co., 193.

\* Delphos..... { Van Wert Co., 2,482.  
Allen Co., 2,556.

† Heavy line denotes largest circulation.

‡ Unincorporated villages.

The statistics of the county school libraries do not include those of the Van Wert City schools.

Some school collections are retained for school room use only and no statistics of these are reported.

Much of the loss shown for 1913 is occasioned by the flood conditions in the spring of 1913, when, through the country districts, bridges were washed out and roads were made almost impassable.

There are 109 schools in the county outside of the city of Van Wert: 101 district and 8 graded schools.

	1906-07	1907-08	1908-09	1909-10	1910-11	1911-12	1912-13
Volumes in county school collection*.....	472	658	716	863	1,359	2,238	2,609
Volumes sent to county schools.....	735	1,184	1,203	1,040	1,036	4,469	4,257
Teachers with school libraries	29	28	28	26	49	95	73†
County district school libraries.....	20	22	21	18	42	70	59
County graded school libraries.....	9	6	5	8	7	22	14
Circulation through school libraries.....	3,756	3,658	3,786	3,709	7,945	22,497	22,108

\* Supplemented by works from main collection and by books from Ohio State Library.

† Teachers with school libraries (1913-14) 86.

The receipts in the table below represent the entire income of the library with the exception of incidental desk receipts. Total expenditures are given, but only such expenditures as are of general interest are itemized.

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Receipts.....	\$9,483	4,503	5,638	5,960	6,017	4,972	6,415	6,615	6,683	5,669	6,978	6,948	8,489
Expenditures.....	*9,672	4,265	5,877	4,452	6,753	6,512	6,484	5,615	6,060	7,172	7,013	6,785	8,341
Books.....	*5,323†	1,143†	1,596†	616†	2,475†	1,463†	1,020	439	884	1,777	1,154	1,014	967
Periodicals.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	159	269†	242†	214	222	216	214
Binding.....	144	204	205	247	356	553	514	610	292	397	237	420	243
Printing.....	63	9	83	50	12	29	42	.....	10	270	.....	121	37
Library Supplies.....	*372	155	32	28	105	150	93	103	154	227	340	96	155
Salaries at Central Library.....	2,016	1,630	1,810	1,890	1,929	2,316	2,243	2,336	2,510	2,496	3,087	2,971	3,091
Salaries Branch Librarians and Incidentals.....	432	665	800	800	833	800	800	827	777	838	758	761	802
Light.....	204	200	227	301	281	234	431	401	471	336	241	262	214
Fuel.....	346	97	285	228	265	176	186	234	248	238	193	281	224
Building and Grounds and Furni- ture.....	409	62	657	124	176	507	732	156	133	117	538	374	1,375

\* For 1900 and 1901.

† Volumes purchased to complete files included.

‡ Periodicals included.

The table below is a comparative table which indicates whether the work of a county station measures up to its possibilities, and is very helpful in studying the work of a given branch.

Branch Station	Branch Librarian	Rank According to Population	Population	Rank According to Borrowers	Borrowers	Rank According to Circulation	Circulation 1913
Cavett.....	C. L. Gordon.....	.....	.....	13	92	13	279
Converse.....	R. W. Hance.....	.....	.....	14	90	8	708
Convoy.....	D. W. Leslie.....	3	741	2	423	1	2,556
Dasic.....	L. B. Springer.....	.....	.....	15	74	10	518
Delphos.....	{ Jane Brotherton.....	1	5,038	1	1,034	.....	.....
	{ Grace Boardman.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1,745
Dixon.....	Chas. Hoeken.....	.....	.....	11	109	15	213
Elgin.....	{ Elvin Clark.....	9	129	12	93	.....	.....
	{ C. T. Clantz.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	488
Glenmore.....	F. C. Germann.....	.....	.....	10	138	9	660
Middlepoint.....	H. A. Mohler.....	5	607	3	301	7	800
Ohio City.....	J. A. Swoveland.....	2	860	4	275	5	1,320
Scott.....	W. F. Leidy.....	6	279	6	263	4	1,521
Venedocia.....	D. J. Evans.....	8	247	5	265	12	410
Wetsel.....	C. Ditto.....	.....	.....	9	193	14	228
Willshire.....	W. W. Parks.....	4	653	7	213	2	1,849
Wren.....	{ F. M. German.....	7	277	8	199	6	829
	{ Mrs. G. W. Dull.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,762	.....	14,124

STATISTICS OF COUNTY SCHOOL-LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT FOR THE  
SCHOOL YEAR, SEPTEMBER, 1912 — JUNE, 1913

Township	County Schools with Collections		Volumes in Use	Circulation
	District	Graded		
Harrison.....	3	..	91	323
Hoaglin.....	7	..	477	2,672
Jackson*.....	..	..	....	....
Jennings.....	2	1	69	432
Liberty.....	8	6	670	4,744
Pleasant†.....	5	..	414	2,608
Ridge.....	7	..	301	792
Tully.....	8	..	653	3,378
Union.....	9	1	677	2,413
Washington.....	4	3	416	2,020
Willshire.....	2	3	296	2,030
York.....	4	..	223	696
	59	14	4,257	22,108

\* Jackson township has always been represented hitherto and has collections at the present time.

† Van Wert city schools not included.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of Van Wert County (square miles).....	405
Area of Van Wert City (acres).....	2,080
Population of Van Wert County (1910 census).....	29,119
Population of Van Wert City.....	7,157
Total income (1913).....	\$8,489.48
Per cent of tax income <i>per capita</i> of county population	.29
Per cent of income devoted to books and periodicals (1913) .....	.14
Per cent of income for binding (1913).....	.03
Per cent for salaries of library staff (1913).....	.37
Per cent for salaries (including 15 branch librarians).	.46
Number employees on full time for 10,000 population..	1.72
Total volumes accessioned to Jan. 1, 1914.....	23,319
Volumes added in 1913.....	972
Central library .....	686
Branch department .....	209
County school department.....	77
Volumes withdrawn (1913) .....	392

* Volumes in library Jan. 1, 1914.....		20,282
Per cent of volumes <i>per capita</i> of county population...		.70
Per cent of volumes loaned <i>per capita</i> of county population .....		3.12
Volumes reserved .....		554
Volumes repaired .....		1,857
Volumes bound .....		117
Volumes rebound .....		237
Total number borrowers, 50% of county population .....		14,774
Registered borrowers, 38%.....	11,070	
Central library .....	7,854	
Branch stations .....	3,216	
Unregistered borrowers, 12%.....	3,704	
Active borrowers, 32%.....		9,486
Registered .....	5,782	
Active but unregistered.....	3,704	
New borrowers (1913).....		684
Van Wert (corporation) residents....	343	
Rural residents using Central library..	164	
County residents using Branches.....	177	341
Number of County Branches.....		15
Number of school collections in use.....		89
Van Wert City schools.....	16	
County district schools.....	59	
County graded schools.....	14	73
Volumes sent to distributing agencies (1913) .....		12,161
Volumes sent to County stations.....	7,904	
Volumes sent to County schools.....	4,257	
Total circulation (1913).....		90,853
Central library .....	54,956	
Adult department .....	31,436	
Children's department .....	17,788	
16 Van Wert school collections.....	5,732	
15 County stations .....	14,124	
73 County school collections.....	21,773	
Total adult fiction 38.24%; adult classed 9.78%; juvenile 51.98%		

\* Several thousand unaccessioned government documents not included.

Per cents in relation to each department's totals of circulation.

	Adult fiction	Adult classed	Juvenile
Central library .....	45.15	12.05	42.80
Branch stations .....	57.03	12.58	30.39
County schools .....	1.14	.36	98.50

A careful study of the table representing the classes of books loaned by the county stations and by the central library reveals some interesting facts. In order to make the table a comparative one, it is given in terms of percentage, showing what proportion of books in each class is read.

It should be remembered that the choice of books by the patrons of the county stations is limited to the fixed collections sent them, each one hundred books, however, being representative of all classes of books based on a percentage scale (see p. 228). At the same time the patrons of the central library have all the books in the main collection to choose from and this also represents a balanced collection. But when the larger demand made upon the larger collection of books of the main library is considered in comparison with the smaller demand made upon the smaller collections at the stations, the choice of the central library patrons may be almost as limited, after all, as the choice of the patrons of the county stations.

No one year is selected as the basis of comparison, but averages for nine years, 1904-1912, are used. These are given in the order of the popularity of the classes read.

COUNTY STATIONS	CENTRAL LIBRARY
Fiction .....	54.36
Juvenile .....	30.98
Travel .....	2.73
Biography .....	1.96
Literature .....	1.90
History .....	1.63
Sociology .....	1.12
Science .....	1.01
Useful Arts .....	.86
Fine Arts.....	.75
Religion .....	.66
Philosophy .....	.53
General works.....	.08
Philology .....	.01
Fiction .....	56.3
Juvenile .....	30.14
Literature .....	2.7
Travel .....	1.86
History .....	1.40
Biography .....	1.32
Sociology .....	1.17
Science .....	1.06
Fine Arts.....	.93
Useful Arts.....	.70
Religion .....	.56
Philosophy .....	.49
General works.....	.41
Philology .....	.03



On the basis of 10,000 books the patrons of the county stations read 87 more of travel, 64 more of biography, 23 more of history, 16 more of useful arts, 10 more of religion, 4 more of philosophy, 84 more of juvenile; 80 fewer of literature, 5 fewer of sociology, 5 fewer of science, 18 fewer of fine arts, 2 fewer of philology and 194 fewer of fiction than do the patrons of the central library.

While on the whole the books read and the popularity of the different classes of books are much the same at the county stations as at the central library, the reading done by patrons of the county stations is of a somewhat higher grade, especially when the fact is considered that they do not have, to so large an extent, the stimulus which the schools and clubs give to the patrons of the central library.

In a given representative collection of books the people of the country and the people of the town would select and read much the same literature. Since human nature is very much the same everywhere, farmers as a class possess all the innate characteristics of any other body of men and women. The *general* reading done by a rural county is no doubt similar to that of an urban county, barring special research work done in the cities by men and women in the trades and professions. The *average* reader in both country and town is looking for something entertaining as well as helpful. The *average* reader likes a good story of adventure, and, since "all the world loves a lover," he enjoys a certain amount of the love element in the story. The large number of books of travel read shows a desire on the part of all to escape from accustomed sights and scenes for a time and live in other environments, while the popularity of biography indicates a longing to view life from other standpoints and for a period to forget the pressing daily round of duties. In the rural county the people are individually as different from one another as city dwellers differ from one another, and represent as many different phases of human nature. Just so the reading done by individuals in a rural county covers all fields of literature.

In fact, the tendency of the cities being to standardize their inhabitants, and of the country to favor the growth of eccentricities and the development of personal peculiarities, tastes, etc., there is more difference among the latter than among the former.

The various communities of the county differ in their reading. One branch librarian asks for historical fiction, another wants the latest fiction, another calls for good home stories and so on.

The farmer does not employ his leisure time reading agricultural books any more than a physician spends his spare hours with medical treatises. But he does read and consult them frequently, and, as the need arises, makes good use of them. Those desiring books on agriculture usually apply for them at the central library, where they may have access to a larger collection. Some agricultural books, especially recent works on the subject, are placed in the collections for the county stations to attract the attention of those who may not know of the resources of the library in this department, and who in this way may be led to make further use of the library's books. Special collections of agricultural books and allied subjects are frequently requested and sent to meetings of farmers' institutes or other agricultural societies.

Recent observation shows that the popular fiction read by patrons of the county stations covers a wide range. It includes stories of the West, some of the popular ones being those by Ralph Connor ("The Doctor," "The Prospector," "The Sky Pilot," etc.), "Last of the Chiefs," by Altsheler, "Wind before the Dawn," by Munger, and some of the Canadian stories by Bindloss. Other popular novels are "A Gentleman from Indiana," "A Circuit Rider's Wife," "Roast Beef Medium," "Wild Olive," "Illustrious Prince," "Man Higher Up," "Hiram Golf's Religion," and an occasional detective story such as Rinehart's "Man in Lower Ten."

Some non-fiction books recently noted as popular are:

- Codd, M. J. With Evans to the Pacific.
- Wright, W. H. Grizzly Bear.
- Sonnichsen, Albert. Confessions of a Macedonian Bandit.
- Gilliat, Edward. Heroes of Modern Crusades.
- Forsythe, G. A. Thrilling Days of Army Life.
- Hadley, A. T. Education of the American Citizen.
- VanDyke, H. J. Fisherman's Luck.
- Munson, J. W. Reminiscences of a Mosby Guerilla.
- Pittenger, Wm. Great Locomotive Chase.
- VanVorst, Bessie. Cry of the Children.

- Avary, M. L. Virginia Girl in the Civil War.  
Good, Arthur. Magical Experiments.  
Paxon, F. L. Last American Frontier.  
Marden, O. S. Do It to a Finish.  
Burns, E. E. Story of Great Inventions.  
Evers, J. J. Touching Second.  
Binnie-Clark, Georgina. Summer on the Canadian Prairie.  
Edwardes, Tickner. Lift-Luck on Southern Roads.  
Bronson, E. B. Reminiscences of a Ranchman.  
Henson, M. A. Negro Explorer at the North Pole.  
Franck, H. A. Zone Policeman 88.  
Grayson, David. Friendly Road.  
Carl, K. A. With the Dowager Empress.  
Howard, Arthur. Man Who Bucked Up.  
Stanley, H. M. My Dark Companions.  
Doubleday, Russel. Gunner Aboard the Yankee.  
Lindsay, Maud. Mother Stories.
- 

Many more titles might be added to this list, but these are enough to give the reader an idea of the kind of books that interest the people living in the villages and on the farms of Van Wert County, a typical county of the great Corn Belt as well as of the Mississippi Valley.

A careful study of the books read by the country patrons of the library is especially inviting to the student of Rural Life. One might pursue it along many lines with pleasure and profit. In a recent book\* edited by Mr. Joseph K. Hart, the statement† is made by one of the contributors, Miss Mary E. Downey, that the average collection of books is of a "motley" character and may not be considered "wholesome reading for the developing years of childhood."

While this may be true in many rural homes that have never had access to the resources of a first-class library, it is quite likely that an investigation of the rural homes enjoying library service would reveal two very interesting facts: (1) that the members of such homes select books for purchase

\* "Educational Resources of Villages and Rural Communities," 1913.

† See chapter entitled "The Intellectual Life of the Community," page 199.

with unusual discrimination; and (2) that they have as a rule larger home libraries.

The more good books one comes into contact with, the better books one buys, and the more books one wants.

Good books have a way of displacing "cheap literature," and, because of the fact that they wonderfully broaden the horizon of the reader, they inevitably lead to the habit of acquiring books for purposes of information, pleasure and culture.

## THE COUNTY LIBRARY

COMPARATIVE PERCENTAGES OF BOOKS LOANED BY THE TWO DISTRIBUTING AGENCIES OF THE LIBRARY

	Central 1902	Branches 1902	Central 1903	Branches 1903	Central 1904	Branches 1904	Central 1905	Branches 1905	Central 1906	Branches 1906	Central 1907	Branches 1907
General works.....	.037	....	.035	....	.04	.0185	.03	.03	.14	.11	.20	.11
Philosophy.....	.249	....	.421	....	.37	.815	.43	.89	.46	.70	.58	.48
Religion.....	.578	....	.534	....	.38	1.14	.39	.70	.38	.81	.56	.53
Sociology.....	1.08	....	1.04	....	1.04	1.44	.9	1.44	1.22	1.30	1.26	1.42
Philology.....	.023	....	.021	....	.02	.009	.04	.01	.02	....	.04	.01
Science.....	1.4	....	1.54	....	1.09	1.334	1.28	1.3	1.04	1.15	.97	1.
Useful arts.....	.34	....	.59	....	.84	1.075	.82	.93	.58	.7	.6	1.04
Fine arts.....	.59	....	.58	....	.72	.78	.6	.67	.74	.60	.82	.56
Literature.....	2.11	....	2.57	....	2.9	2.43	3.02	2.36	3.	2.13	3.09	1.8
Travel and history.....	4.2	....	3.91	....	4.01	7.	3.16	5.43	3.02	4.24	3.27	4.47
Biography.....	1.44	....	1.09	....	1.32	2.58	1.21	2.26	1.18	2.06	1.35	1.57
History.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Fiction.....	57.6	....	60.	....	59.12	50.8	56.37	53.12	57.17	57.8	58.4	54.
Juvenile.....	30.33	....	27.63	....	28.13	30.63	31.76	30.8	31.1	28.3	28.8	33.

COMPARATIVE PERCENTAGES OF BOOKS LOANED BY THE TWO DISTRIBUTING AGENCIES OF THE LIBRARY

	Central 1908	Branches 1908	Central 1909	Branches 1909	Central 1910	Branches 1910	Central 1911	Branches 1911	Central 1912	Branches 1912	Central 1913	Branches 1913
General works.....	.19	.06	.08	.20	.21	.053	.39	.07	.22	.09	.18	.02
Philosophy.....	.58	.35	.58	.39	.60	.31	.63	.50	.55	.43	.51	.49
Religion.....	.71	.56	.8	.5	.57	.51	.7	.55	.75	.62	.60	.64
Sociology.....	.97	.8	1.2	.9	1.1	.8	1.3	1.03	1.7	1.	1.25	.91
Philology.....	.05	....	.02	.04	.04	.007	.05	.04	.04	.007	.03	.03
Science.....	1.06	.84	.92	.8	.79	.7	.9	1.12	.84	.86	.77	.92
Useful arts.....	.78	.73	.75	.7	.74	.8	1.05	.74	1.21	1.08	.90	.69
Fine arts.....	1.05	.66	1.35	.85	1.3	.7	1.3	.84	1.18	1.02	.73	.78
Literature.....	2.83	1.6	2.6	1.8	2.7	2.	2.4	1.74	2.08	1.35	1.59	1.21
Travel and history.....	3.6	4.	2.16	2.5	2.13	2.6	1.77	3.08	1.4	2.76	1.24	2.57
Biography.....	1.38	1.76	1.6	1.87	1.5	1.5	1.28	2.13	1.07	1.9	1.15	1.64
History.....	....	....	1.34	1.31	1.7	1.2	1.34	2.24	1.21	1.87	1.02	1.83
Fiction.....	59.83	56.46	58.57	54.04	55.64	57.	52.4	53.	48.	53.7	45.15	57.03
Juvenile.....	26.84	32.23	27.62	33.	30.21	30.	32.77	30.	38.	31.	42.8	30.39



PART III

THE COUNTY LIBRARY MOVEMENT  
IN THE UNITED STATES





## CHAPTER XVI

### LIBRARY ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

THE trend of the past decade, in the library activities of the country, has been along the line of rural extension, with the idea of placing books in the homes of those living on the farms as well as of those living in the towns and cities. In earlier years books were accessible only to the few. Today a majority of the people enjoy library privileges, and the drift of library legislation in the several states indicates a purpose to make provision for the country people, many of whom still have no opportunities to get books, except through purchase.

All the states of the Union now have state libraries. Some of these take a very important part in the educational and cultural development of their respective states; others work along more special lines, being limited in their activities; still others are all too narrow and restricted in their work, and a few represent little more than mere repositories of books.

All of the states except the following, viz., Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, West Virginia and Wyoming have library commissions. The object of these commissions is to promote the library interests of their respective states. Some of the commissions, because of liberal appropriations and the power granted them through progressive legislation, are doing wonderful work, thereby placing their states in the front rank in library matters; others, because of small appropriations and inability to secure progressive laws, are handicapped in their work.

Available statistics indicate that Wisconsin spends more money *per capita* through her state library and library commission than any other state in the Union, and consequently of all the states does most for her people in library matters. Wisconsin belongs to the growing group of states that are getting the best results in the furnishing of library service. Moreover, she is progressive not only along library lines but in all things, and her many reforms and innovations for the benefit of the whole people are worthy of the most careful study.

One of the many functions of state library commissions is the organization and management of traveling library systems. Traveling libraries are usually sent in small collections of twenty-five or fifty volumes, and the expenses are paid wholly or in part by the state or altogether by the recipients. Such libraries consist of general and special collections. The former are for the most part available to all the people; while the latter consist largely of libraries for children, for foreigners, for the blind, for study clubs, for granges, for public and private schools and for Sunday schools and churches. During the year 1912-13 there were sent out in New York, the state in which the traveling library system seems to be most highly developed, "1,114 traveling libraries containing 45,651 books." \*

Making the county the unit represents a comparatively new movement in the library history of this country. In Part I an account is given of the origin of the first county library law passed by a state (Ohio law), and in Part II a detailed statement is presented of the first county library organized under this law (The Brumback Library of Van Wert County). This part is devoted to a consideration of the county library movement in the United States; therefore it is necessary only to mention here that California

\* From a letter received from the Secretary of the State Library Commission of New York.

has made more rapid progress in the establishment of county libraries than any other state in the Union.

Quite a number of states have passed township library laws, which enable the people of townships to tax themselves for library purposes. The state in which the township has been used most extensively as a unit is Indiana. The Indiana township law passed a number of years ago, modified in 1909 and again revised in 1911, provides for the cooperation of a city or town and one or more townships in library work, and for the establishment of libraries by townships, singly or in groups, independent of cities or towns. A liberal tax has made the plan successful to the extent that already "sixty towns and cities have united with seventy townships to support libraries under the township law." \* But this system lacks the strength and unity of the county system with its larger resources and more centralized effort.

The establishment of municipal libraries has reached its greatest development in the state of Massachusetts, which "is unique in having a library in every city and town of the state, with one exception — Newbury — and that town has library privileges in Newburyport, one and one-half miles distant, making appropriations toward its maintenance." † A law passed in 1911 permits all city or town libraries to loan to one another, and since there are over six million volumes in the free public libraries of the state, about two volumes to each inhabitant, it can be seen that the residents of the cities and towns of Massachusetts should be well-read.

School district libraries are receiving the greatest encouragement and most adequate support in the state of Oregon, where "the county courts of the several counties

\* From a letter received from the Secretary of the State Library Commission of Indiana.

† From a letter received from the Secretary of the State Library Commission of Massachusetts.

. . . are . . . required to levy, at the same time that they levy other taxes, a tax upon all the taxable property in their county for school library purposes, which shall aggregate an amount which shall not be less than ten cents *per capita* for each and all the children within the county between the ages of four and twenty years . . .” \* The only counties excepted are those having a population of over 100,000, and since Oregon has only one such county, this law applies to all the counties of the state except Multnomah, the county-seat of which is Portland.

The library history of the country represented by the work of the state libraries and library commissions and by county, township, municipal and school district libraries does not include all the library activities of the people. Millions of books belong to university, college and other school collections. Besides, there are many endowed, special and subscription libraries. Then, mention should be made of the libraries of clubs, societies, learned bodies, etc. The chief interest of the people, however, concerns itself with the larger library work of the country, that of the state, county, township, municipality and school district, which is supported by all the people and devoted to the interests of all the people.

Unquestionably every state should have a state library and a library commission. As a matter of fact, all the states do have state libraries, although some of them accomplish much less than others. All the states, except the eleven previously mentioned in this chapter, have library commissions. It is very unfortunate for a state if its legislature fails to create and make an adequate appropriation for the maintenance of a first-class library commission.

Likewise, it would seem desirable that all the states should have county, township and municipal library laws adapted to their respective needs. No two states are exactly alike,

\* From the library laws of the state of Oregon.

and there are few cases where the laws of one state would fit perfectly into the conditions of another state. Some states desire to emphasize the county as a unit, as is the case in California, and to adapt all libraries organized under other laws to the county system. Then, some states make the township the predominating unit, as Indiana does, and strive to bring library privileges to all the people of the state through township extension. Finally, a number of states, following the lead of Massachusetts, make the municipality the library center and bend every effort to reach as many of the people as possible from the town and city.

No state makes a school district law the most important library law on its statute books, but a school district library law that supplements the other library laws of a state is certainly conducive to the progress of the state along educational lines.

Recent experience points to the fact that of the library laws thus far enacted the county library law seems to provide best for the extension of library privileges to all the people. And a careful study of the library movement of the country indicates that, if all the people are to be reached in the matter of library service, the county should be made the unit in library legislation. States which emphasize the other library laws mentioned in this chapter are doing excellent work, but in none of these states is it likely that all the people will enjoy library privileges to the extent that would be possible under a county law. The status of agriculture in Massachusetts, where all the towns and cities have libraries, leads one to believe that the situation might be different if more attention were to be directed to the improvement of rural life, and the purpose of the county library is to emphasize its work among the people on the farms. The last annual report of the State Library Commission of Indiana, in which the township extension idea has been most highly developed, shows that but one rural

resident out of every eleven in the state enjoys library service. And the few people reached compared with the great rural population of the state of New York, wherein the traveling library under the direction of the State Library Commission seems to be more widely used than in any other state of the Union, indicates the futility of trying, by means of a traveling library system operated from the capital of the state, to supply farm homes with library privileges.

During the year 1913 the legislatures of forty-four of the forty-eight states were in session. Thirty-one of these acted on library matters, and their work may be summarized in the words of Mr. W. R. Eastman.

Library commissions were created in two states. The functions and titles of some existing commissions were changed, marking a clear tendency toward giving them a larger share of responsibility for the state library and its work. There was also a gratifying increase of commission funds in ten states.

In several states the library laws are being adjusted and improved by careful revision.

The limit for library taxation, where any such limit exists, is being questioned and restated.

Rural library extension is receiving more nearly the attention it deserves. County systems are being brought into operation and the power to contract for library facilities is extended.

In three states the state library is being reorganized for more active service to the public, and the subject of legislative reference is being pushed to the front in four states.

A new retirement pension scheme for librarians appears in one state.\*

It might be stated here by way of conclusion that a hasty study of the library legislation of the country covering the past twelve or fourteen years reveals several interesting facts:

(1) A tendency to make state libraries more serviceable.

\* "Library Legislation in 1913," W. R. Eastman, *The Library Journal* for January, 1914.

(2) A gradual increase in the number of state library commissions and in the amounts of the appropriations for their work.

(3) The passage of many measures that place on a more substantial basis hundreds of the libraries of the country organized under county, township, municipal or school district library laws.

(4) A steady improvement in the matter of drafting bills for passage as a result of the establishment of legislative reference departments in a number of the states.

(5) The gathering of greater and greater momentum from year to year on the part of the rural extension library movement.



## CHAPTER XVII

### COUNTY LIBRARY LAWS

THE county library laws are given in the order of their passage.

#### *1. Ohio, 1898-1906*

As stated in Part I of this book, on page 25, the Ohio Legislature, in the month of April, 1898, passed a county library law, which made possible the acceptance of a county library building by Van Wert County, under the will of John Sanford Brumback. This law is given in full on page 24. In the year 1906 it was modified by the Legislature to broaden it for more general use and now reads thus:

The county commissioners may receive a bequest or a gift of a building or of money or property wherewith to construct a building for or to furnish and equip a county public library. They may accept the gift of a library or of its use for a term of years or permanently, and may agree on behalf of such county to provide and maintain such a library.

A library association or other organization, owning or having the full management or control of a library, or a board of trustees appointed by authority of law and having the management or control of a library free to the whole or a part of a county, may contract with the county commissioners for the use thereof by the people of such county.

A county accepting such bequest or gift, or entering into such agreement, shall faithfully maintain and provide for such library. At their June session each year, the commissioners

thereof may levy a tax not to exceed a half-mill on each dollar of the taxable property in such county. The fund derived from such levy shall be a special fund, known as the library fund, and shall be used only for the purpose contemplated in this section.

### *2. Wyoming, 1899-1901-1907*

According to the Wyoming county library law,

When the county commissioners of any county have received proper and sufficient guarantees, whether in the form of conveyances, or bonds of citizens, or associations or corporations, that a suitable place will be permanently furnished for the protection and use of a public library as a condition precedent to their own action, under the provisions of this chapter, it shall be their duty to levy annually a tax of not less than one-eighth of a mill nor more than one-half of a mill on the dollar on all taxable property in the county, for the establishment and maintenance of a public library to be located at the county-seat of such county. And whenever a suitable place is furnished without rent for the use of any county library, the directors thereof shall have the power to pay such incidental expenses as may be necessary in keeping in repair and properly janitored, lighted, heated and cared for, the place so furnished, and to pay the expense thereof out of the taxes levied hereunder.

The law provides that a board of three members shall be appointed by the county commissioners to supervise the work of the county library. Said board may receive donations of real estate, money or books for county library purposes. County libraries are free to all the residents of the county. The three trustees shall make their report to the commissioners once each year.

### *3. Wisconsin, 1901*

The Wisconsin county library law provides that

Any county may receive by devise, bequests or gifts of land, buildings, money, books or other property, for the purpose of establishing a public library for the county, and may enter

into an agreement to maintain a public library in consideration thereof, and shall be bound to faithfully perform such agreement. In such case the said board of libraries have full power to properly administer the same.

According to the law the board of libraries of a county consists of five members, who are elected and who have charge of all the county library activities, including the appointment of a supervising librarian, whose salary is limited to \$50 a year. Their report is made annually to the county board of supervisors. The first appropriation for a county may be \$500, although thereafter it must not exceed \$200 a year.

#### *4. Minnesota, 1905*

The Minnesota county library law permits any library board to

contract with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the library is situated or of adjacent counties, or with the village trustees or governing body of any neighboring town, city or village to loan the books of said library, either singly or in traveling libraries, to the residents of said county, town, city or village, upon such terms as shall be agreed upon in such contract.

Under the law, boards of county commissioners make appropriations for the maintenance of county work, but in no case has the appropriation for any county exceeded \$500 a year. In some cases it is as low as \$150.

In the Seventh Annual Report of the Minnesota Library Commission is the following statement relative to the law:

This law authorizes two distinct plans (1) that of county extension, whereby a centrally located library may extend its privileges to all residents of the county upon contract made with the county commissioners, and (2) that of township extension, whereby a library may extend its privileges to adjoining townships or villages upon contract made with the governing body of the township or village.

Although good results have been obtained through the operation of this law, comparison with work in other states seems to indicate that a more permanent system could be established if the law provided for a definite basis of taxation for the county library, and accordingly a bill authorizing such taxation will be introduced in the 1913 session of the Legislature.

Unfortunately this bill never got beyond the committee to which it was referred.

#### *5. Missouri, 1909*

The county library law of Missouri contains the following provisions :

The county court in any county wherein is situated an incorporated city containing a free public library, whenever petitioned by one hundred or more tax-paying citizens of said city and one hundred or more tax-paying citizens of said county, residing outside of said city, for the use of the citizens of said county residing outside of said city of said library, shall have the right to contract with the officers of said library for such use thereof by said citizens of said county residing outside of the city, and to appropriate moneys from the county revenue of said county therefor, and thereafter to continue such contract or renewals thereof from year to year: provided that the annual amount so contracted to be paid and appropriated shall not exceed three per cent of the county revenue for the year out of which payment is to be made.

#### *6. California, 1909-1911*

Under the county library law of California, the board of supervisors of a county may issue bonds to buy a lot and build a library building, may receive the donation of a lot and building or may enter into a contract with the trustees of a library of any incorporated town or city to manage a county library, and may levy a one mill tax for library purposes on all the taxable property of the county excepting that of towns, cities or library districts maintaining libraries of their own and not choosing to be a part of the county

system.— One county may join another county in the establishment of a county library.

There is a state board of library examiners consisting of the state librarian, the San Francisco city and county librarian and the Los Angeles librarian, which passes on the qualification of all persons desiring to become county librarians or library employees, issuing three grades of certificates, each good for five years. This board is appointed for four years and is removable only for cause.

All county librarians are under the supervision of the state librarian, to whom annual reports are made and who calls a convention of county librarians once a year.

County teachers' and county law libraries may be united with county libraries.

The state cooperates with county libraries (1) by making them large initial loans of books for the purpose of getting them started, (2) by supplying them with photographic views, and (3) by placing at their service books of a special nature that they would not care to purchase.

#### *7. Maryland, 1910*

Under the provisions of the library laws of Maryland the state library commission may expend for each new library established in the state one hundred dollars for books.

The boards of county commissioners of the several counties have the right to establish and maintain central free public libraries at all the county-seats of their respective counties with branches. For this purpose an annual tax, not exceeding five cents on each one hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of the taxable property of the county, may be levied.

Nine directors are chosen by county commissioners for county libraries. The directors have the power to provide or erect buildings for library purposes, and have charge of all gifts, donations, devises, bequests and legacies, even to

the extent of selling any of the same, unless this is forbidden by the terms of the gifts, donations, devises, bequests or legacies.

The county library law applies to all counties of the state except Baltimore County.

#### *8. Washington, 1910-1913*

The county library law of the state of Washington contains the following provisions:

The county superintendent of each county of this state may establish a circulating library for the use and benefit of the pupils of the common schools of such county.

A tax not exceeding one-tenth of one mill may be levied by the county commissioners for this purpose.

Liberal provisions may be made by all free libraries of whatever character to loan books to non-residents and to exchange books with one another.

In the year 1913 the following paragraph was added to the library laws of the state:

By a majority vote at any election, any county, city, village, town or other body authorized to levy and collect taxes, or by a vote of its county commissioners on petition of 100 voters voting at the last election, any county, or by a vote of its common council, any city may establish and maintain a free public library with or without branches, either by itself or in connection with any other body authorized to maintain such library. Whenever twenty-five tax-payers shall petition, the question of providing facilities shall be voted on at the next election or meeting at which taxes may be levied: provided, that due public notice shall have been given of the proposed action.

The librarian of the Washington State Library stated in a letter written July 3, 1913, that they had hoped to secure a county library law modeled after the California county library law, but only succeeded in getting the section above quoted.

*9. Oregon, 1911*

The following are the most important provisions of the Oregon county library law:

Any county of the state may assess, levy and collect a special tax, not to exceed one-half mill on all the taxable property in the county, for establishing and maintaining a county library within the county at the county-seat. If, however, there should be a library at the county-seat, arrangements may be made with the same to perform the functions of a county library.

All library funds are in the hands of the county court.

Counties having a population of 50,000 or more may levy a special tax of one and one-half mills to erect a county library building in the county-seat.

*10. Nebraska, 1911*

The county library law of Nebraska reads thus in condensed form:

The city council of any city, the board of trustees of any incorporated village, the county board of any county and the electors of any township at their annual meeting, shall have the power to establish a public library free for the use of the inhabitants of such city, village, county or township, or to contract for the use of a public library already established, and may levy a tax of not more than three mills on the dollar annually to be levied and collected in like manner as other taxes in said city, village, county or township and to be known as the library fund: provided, that when any county board makes a levy for a county library, it shall omit from the levy of the library tax all property within the limits of any city, village, or township in said county, which already maintains a library by public tax; provided, further, that before establishing such county library, or levying such tax, the county board shall submit the question to the voters of such county, and a majority of the voters

voting thereon shall have authorized the establishment of such county library and the levying of such tax. Such question shall be submitted at a general election only.

The law provides that a county library board of five shall be appointed by the county board. It may contract with a library in its own county or in any adjoining county to furnish it library privileges.

Each library board has the power to purchase or lease ground and to erect, lease or occupy an appropriate building for library purposes.

#### *11. New York, 1911*

The following is the New York county library law:

A board of supervisors of a county may contract with the trustees of a public library within such county or with any other municipal or district body having control of such a library to furnish library privileges to the people of the county, under such terms and conditions as may be stated in such contract. The amount agreed to be paid for such privileges under such contract shall be a charge upon the county and shall be paid in the same manner as other county charges.

#### *12. Iowa, 1913*

The following is the substance of the county library law of Iowa:

Any free public library may contract with any school corporation, township, town, city, or county wherein the said library is located, whether such school corporation, township, town or city be in the same county in which the library is located or in an adjoining county, for the free use of said library by the residents of such school corporation, township, town, city or county by one or more of the following methods in whole or in part:

- (1) Through direct loans to all on equal terms.
- (2) By the establishment of depositories.



(3) By the use of wagons or other conveyances.

(4) By organizing branch libraries.

Contracts remain in force five years unless terminated by a majority vote of the electors.

A tax of not to exceed one mill shall be levied annually for library purposes after the execution of a library contract.

Towns and cities may be excluded from a county tax for library purposes if they desire, but in that event they do not participate in the county library service.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### COUNTY LIBRARY LAWS DISCUSSED

THE first thought suggested by a study of the preceding chapter is that most of the county library laws have been passed within very recent years. This is a source of great encouragement to the friends of the county library movement because it indicates that although much time was required to arouse public sentiment on the importance of the movement, perseverance has in many cases been rewarded.

It is also to be noticed from a perusal of the preceding chapter that the county library laws of the twelve states show some marked similarities and some marked differences. All except three of these states, viz., Wisconsin, Minnesota and New York, provide for a county tax. In these three states the county commissioners are permitted to make appropriations, which in Wisconsin and Minnesota have a limit of \$500 annually. In Missouri the maximum amount provided for county library purposes is 3% of the county's total revenue. In Ohio, Maryland and Oregon the tax shall not exceed one-half mill, in Wyoming it shall not exceed one-half mill nor be less than one-eighth of a mill, and in Washington it shall not exceed one-tenth of a mill *on all the taxable property of the county*. But in Washington the proceeds are used only for school libraries. In California and Iowa the tax shall not exceed one mill and in Nebraska it shall not exceed three mills on all the *unexempted* taxable property of the county. In these three states under certain conditions parts of the county may be exempted from the

library tax, although no exempted territory is given library service.

The great difference in the rates of taxation for library purposes does not necessarily mean that some states provide larger revenues than other states, since no two states in the Union are on exactly the same taxation basis. Most of the states still cling to the old uniform rule or so-called general property tax, which provides for the taxation of all property according to its money value, but they differ greatly in their appraisal of property with a resulting variation in tax rates. A few states, like Ohio, for example, insist on all real estate going on the tax duplicate at its actual value, which makes the rate low and encourages owners to make liberal returns of personal property. Other states appraise real estate below its actual value, which makes the rate high and has a tendency to cause owners of personal property to withhold much of it. So it is apparent that a levy for library purposes in one state cannot well be compared with a levy in another state.

The first essential in the case of a county library, after its maintenance has been provided for, is a building for its home. The most widely used method of establishing a county library is for the commissioners of a county, in which a county library is desired, to enter into an agreement with the trustees of some library in the county to assume the management of the county library. This plan may be adopted in Ohio, Minnesota, California, Oregon, Nebraska, New York and Iowa. In four states, viz., Ohio, Wisconsin, California and Wyoming, county commissioners are authorized to receive bequests, etc., for county library purposes, such as lots, buildings, or money with which to buy a lot and erect a building, and are required on the acceptance of any such gift to provide for county library maintenance. A few states may issue bonds to build a county library building. California may do this in any county in

which the need may arise. Oregon may issue bonds for building purposes only in counties with a population of 50,000 or more. In Nebraska the county commissioners, and in Maryland the library directors, of a county library are given the power to purchase grounds and erect county library buildings, but in neither state is the law very explicit.

In Minnesota, Nebraska and California, if no existing library in the county can be found to assume the management of a proposed county library, the county commissioners may enter into an arrangement with some library in an adjoining county to furnish library privileges. While this might prove a good temporary expedient, it should not be considered permanent, for the reason that a county should be independent in all of its activities and allowed to develop as a unit. In California one county is permitted to unite with another in the establishment of a county library. This likewise might prove a good arrangement for the time being, but as soon as a county is able to take care of itself in all things it should sever the ties that bind it to a neighboring county and operate single-handed for its own good.

The states of Oregon, Wyoming and Maryland allow the establishment of county libraries only at county-seat towns or cities. While the county-seat is as a rule to be preferred, this requirement would seem to be inadvisable, for the reason that there are some county-seats not so well suited for the location of a county library as other cities or towns in the counties. Since the main purpose of a county library is to furnish library service to all parts of a county, the most advantageously located town or city of a county, from the standpoint of accessibility, should be the center from which county library activities should radiate. There are other factors that enter into the selection of a county library location, but it is believed the law should leave the selection open.

The states of Missouri, Nebraska and Washington place

a large obstacle in the way of the establishment of a county library by requiring the matter to be submitted to a vote of the people. The result is, none of these three states has a county library organized under its county library law. The experience of the counties that for years have had county libraries is, that while in the beginning there may be some objection to taxing a county for county library purposes, in the end objection disappears and counties are as willingly taxed for library purposes as for school purposes. This being the rule, it is inexpedient to make it so difficult to get a county library that even the most courageous and enthusiastic shrink from the undertaking.

California stands alone in having a state board of library examiners and in making eligible to county library positions only such persons as receive certificates from the board. This may prove to be an excellent provision. Time will show whether it is best for a state to restrict itself in the appointment of county librarians to the limited number of persons who have passed the county library examination in the state.

The position of county librarian in any state, and especially in states in which ample provision is made by taxation for a large work, is one that is very difficult to fill. What is desired is not alone a person who can pass a brilliant examination, but a person who has executive ability with an appreciation of rural life in its manifold activities; a person who has a superior knowledge of books and library science and is capable of increasing a library's circulation coincidentally with a raising of the standard of the books purchased; a person who is possessed of tact and can inspire enthusiasm in a working force and the custodians of branch libraries as well as among scores of county school teachers, whose work means much to the future educational and cultural standards of a county. The position of county librarian is so very important that the whole country should

be laid under contribution in the selection of the best available persons.

It is seen that in the matter of county library trustees the laws of the several states differ considerably. Several of the states make no provision for the selection of trustees, leaving the matter open. In the other states the rule is, the county commissioners appoint the trustees. The number varies from three in Wyoming to nine in Maryland. Wisconsin is the only state that elects its trustees. Experience recommends appointment and suggests that the number be five or seven. Moreover, to eliminate the danger of politics entering into appointments it has proved satisfactory to have the trustees selected by different representative bodies in the county.

A study of the twelve laws suggests two provisions that should be embodied in every county library law.

(1) Every county library law should provide for a county tax either on all or on a greater portion of the taxable property of the county, preferably on all the taxable property of the county in order that the county unit may not be broken up, to preserve which in county development is one of the chief purposes of the county library.\*

Furthermore, towns, cities and townships having libraries receive in many cases support inadequate for efficient library service and the building up of well-balanced libraries. If on the other hand they cooperate with a county library, they have the benefit of a superior county librarian, they have more and better books at their disposal, they have access to a complete reference department, and standards are raised. The small extra tax is nominal and the added advantages are worth many times the cost. Of course a county library with untaxed and unserved sections is to be

\* It is likely that none of the county library laws would provide for tax-exempted areas in counties, if it were not for the fact that existing libraries in county subdivisions are not always willing to join in the county work.

preferred to no county library at all, but a county library having the county as a perfect unit is much better for the county as well as the library.

(2) Every county library law should provide that the county commissioners of a county may enter into an agreement with the library trustees of some established library in the county to furnish the county library service. This is the easiest way to secure a county library, and such a county library is to be preferred to no county library. However, it is much better if the law permits a county so desiring to erect its own library building.

A state having these fundamental provisions in its county library law would have a workable law that would, if libraries were to be organized under it, promote the library movement in the state.

The county library movement has for its chief ideal the betterment of all the people. It is a movement that is in perfect accord and harmony with the progressive tendencies of the age. It is a democratic movement. Within the past ten or twelve years, eighteen states in the Union have embodied in their organic laws the principle of the Initiative and Referendum. It is a matter of interest that of the twelve states that have passed county library laws, six, viz., Oregon, Nebraska, Ohio, California, Missouri and Washington, are Initiative and Referendum states; two, Wisconsin and Minnesota, have taken the preliminary steps in the matter of adopting such a constitutional amendment; one, Wyoming, would have direct legislation as a part of its constitution, according to a report from the state, but for a recognized defect in its election laws; and three, New York, Maryland and Iowa, have not the Initiative and Referendum. To recapitulate: of the eighteen direct legislation states, six are county library states, and the six will be increased to nine by the addition of the three states just mentioned. So that of the twelve county library states nine

will belong to the twenty-one Initiative and Referendum states.

There is great diversity of opinion as to the desirability of the Initiative and Referendum for the states. Whether in the end the voice of the whole people will unqualifiedly sanction the subordination of representative government is a matter of much speculation and must be left to the future. But as to the desirability of the extension of library service to all the people there is unanimity of opinion, and the future will unquestionably endorse the sentiment of the present on this important matter.



## CHAPTER XIX

### THE COUNTY LIBRARIES OF THE UNITED STATES

#### *I. Ohio, 1898-1906*

OHIO is called the pioneer state in county library work. It is noted on page 270 that Indiana passed a primitive county library law in 1816 and that there were several county libraries organized under this law. But the law was long ago discarded and none of the libraries organized under it has survived. In Wyoming the Territorial Legislature passed a county library law in 1886, but the real county library movement in Wyoming was not inaugurated until the early years of the present century, and, besides, the purpose of the original law, three times amended since its passage, was not so much to establish a rural library system as to give the towns and cities more money for library maintenance. The ten states that have passed county library laws since 1898 got their inspiration from Ohio and this is why Ohio is known as the pioneer state in county library work.

The Brumback Library established under the Ohio law is called the pioneer county library. On page 15 it is seen that J. S. Brumback contemplated the building of a county library long before his death, which occurred in 1897; and after his death provision was found in his will for such a library. His will is dated March 31, 1897. The Bill (Senate Bill No. 435) empowering county commissioners to receive bequests, etc., for county library buildings and to bind counties to maintain such buildings (sometimes called "The Van Wert Bill" and applicable to all of Ohio's coun-

ties) was drafted several months before it was introduced in the Senate, and appeared in a number of the leading daily papers of the state. It was introduced in the Senate March 25, 1898, and became a law April 26, 1898. The Cincinnati Special Bill (House Bill No. 753), under the provisions of which only two counties of the state can establish county libraries — Hamilton and Cuyahoga — was introduced in the House April 1, 1898, and became a law April 21, 1898. The preceding statement of facts seems to justify the Brumback Library's use of the title "Pioneer County Library of the United States," since an investigation of the claims of all the county libraries of the United States would indicate that no other county library in the country, excepting the Hamilton County Library, has ever laid claim to priority.

The Jewett Norris Library, of Trenton, Mo., and the Warren County Library, of Monmouth, Ill., are much older than the Brumback Library, but they are county libraries only in name. The Jewett Norris Library has always permitted residents of the county to secure books free, but it has never made any effort to extend its privileges to the rural districts of Grundy County, and hence is not unlike hundreds of other libraries whose service covers so large a territory that residents from far and wide enjoy the advantages of the libraries. The Warren County Library charges all its patrons a yearly fee. The fact that its service is limited to those who pay for it really excludes it from consideration in the history of a great free public library movement in the country. *Neither of these libraries is supported by a county tax or any other kind of tax, both being endowed libraries.*

In this connection, the Washington County Library of Hagerstown, Md., is mentioned. This library had its origin in 1898 and opened its doors to the public in 1901. In point of time it comes a little later than the two pioneer libraries

of Van Wert and Hamilton counties, Ohio, but the character of its work is such that it is fairly entitled to a place beside these two libraries in the activities that have led to the successful inauguration of a great library movement.

The Brumback Library, the Hamilton County Library, the Jewett Norris Library, the Warren County Library and the Washington County Library are briefly considered here together that the reader may form a clear conception of the beginnings of the county library movement in the United States.

The Brumback Library having already been considered at length, a discussion of the other county libraries of Ohio follows. Although many counties of the state have at different times taken the preliminary steps in the establishment of county libraries, yet the number of such libraries remained two until recent months. In the year 1913, the following county libraries were started: the Paulding County Library, of Paulding; the Richland County Library, of Mansfield; the Green County Library, of Xenia; the Erie County Library, of Sandusky; and the Ross County Library, of Chillicothe. The Paulding County Library is a \$40,000 gift of Andrew Carnegie and requires a minimum income of \$4,000 annually for maintenance. The other four are operated through the libraries of their county-seats. Some statistics from these libraries are given in the last chapter. At the present writing there is considerable county library agitation in the state and more than a score of counties are making efforts to secure county libraries. Another decade ought to see many of the eighty-eight counties of the state possessed of county libraries.

Ohio has one *private* county library, The Birchard Library, which was given to Sandusky County by Mr. Birchard. However, it is stated: "county extension work has never been undertaken; nor has it been made generally known that the library belongs to the county."

The Hamilton County Library was originally the Cincinnati Library, which was established by the city board of education in 1855 and consequently is one of the first free public libraries in the United States. It became the Hamilton County Library under a special law passed by the Legislature on the 21st day of April, 1898. It has 550,756 books, pamphlets and pictures on its shelves and its last annual circulation of books, pamphlets and pictures was 1,939,433. Its books number 443,126, and its 1912 circulation of books alone amounted to 1,534,883. The library is supported by a county tax of .273 of a mill on each dollar of taxable property in Hamilton County, and the annual income is about \$170,000. The population of Cincinnati is 364,463 and of Hamilton County 460,732. A great many branches and numerous collections of various kinds provide the whole of the county with the very best of library service.

These figures indicate that the Hamilton County Library is doing a wonderful work. Of course this is a city county (the area being 407 square miles and the number of inhabitants to the square mile being 1,132) and demonstrates that there is not a city in the country that should not extend its library service to the whole county. There are several reasons for its advisability based on the experience of Cincinnati in her extension work.

Library service in the suburbs and surrounding country tends to encourage the building of dwellings far enough from the heart of the city to make possible the ownership of a little ground for cultivation, and the enjoyment of pure air and a wholesome environment. If the person doing business in the city has all the advantages of city life in the country he will surely live in the country. Rousseau says, "Men were never meant to be heaped together in ant-hills." One of the very greatest privileges of the city is access to a great library. Highly trained librarians, large numbers of books, etc., etc., are not possible in suburban

towns or rural districts in large city counties unless the county is a unit in library work.

If the privileges and advantages (and what is a greater privilege and advantage than a great library?) of the city are transferred to the country, flat life is in a measure changed into the life of the private, separate home, the birth rate among the very people from whom superior children may be expected is increased, and there is greater stimulus to intellectual and religious activity, since a quiet environment is more conducive than a noisy one to intellectual and spiritual development.

The people should be made contented, happy and prosperous in the suburbs and remoter districts of city counties, as well as on the farms in the rural counties, and one of the best means to this laudable end is to supply them with the best library service that the country affords.

A detailed study of the work of the Hamilton County Library would reveal as many interesting and valuable facts as the detailed study of the work of the Brumback Library of Van Wert County has revealed. The former is a study of suburban life with library privileges; the latter is a study of rural life with library privileges.

## *2. Wyoming, 1899-1901-1907*

Wyoming has been a state since 1890. Four years before it became a state its Territorial Legislature passed a library law which contained some county features, but at that time the state had possibly not over 50,000 people scattered over its 97,594 miles of territory, its towns were very small and widely remote from one another, and there was no county life in the proper sense of the term. The purpose of none of the county libraries has ever been to emphasize, even in a limited way, the extension of library service to the rural inhabitants (of whom there are comparatively few even now in the state), but to raise as much

money as possible for the support of county-seat libraries. In 1899 the law was modified, and it was in accordance with this law (revised in 1901 and 1907) that the nine Carnegie county libraries now in the state were organized. It is noted that the first was established in 1900, and the returns from these libraries indicate that all of them were organized simultaneously as city and county libraries, although several of them operated under the name of county libraries before 1900.

The state of Wyoming is a unique phenomenon in the county library movement of the nation. It is one of the last states one would expect to pass a county library law, since the whole state contains a population of only 145,965. It has no county so small as Rhode Island, and several counties that are larger than some of the other states. Although little work has thus far been done in the way of rural extension, some of the libraries reporting no work of this character, the opportunities of aiding isolated schools and remote trading-centers, and of establishing traveling libraries for the purpose of reaching all the people of the state at little expense are excellent. It is expected that Wyoming will be the first state in the Union that can boast of the fact that all its people contribute toward and enjoy library privileges. Wyoming has made a great start and deserves recognition accordingly at the hands of the library world.

Wyoming has nine counties with libraries and six without; and the likelihood is that these will soon take advantage of the law and also establish county libraries. The statistics of the nine libraries will be found in Chapter XXII.

### 3. *Wisconsin, 1901*

Regarding the libraries that have availed themselves of the provisions of the Wisconsin county library law, the secretary of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, Hon. M. S. Dudgeon, makes this statement in a letter dated April 30, 1913:

It is impossible for me to give you the names of all the libraries in our state which extend library privileges in whole or in part to the surrounding country. Some time ago we sent out an inquiry to one hundred libraries relative to their service to county residents. Seventy-one replied. Of these seventy-one, forty-four granted free privileges to country people; twenty-four granted full privileges upon the payment of a small fee, usually about one dollar; two reported that they had not granted any such privileges under any circumstances, and one reported that they had no application from country people.

The letter of the State Library Commissioner indicates that they are beginning to do a great work in the state, and though no statistics have been received from the forty-four libraries that grant free library privileges to country people, yet it is believed that few states in the Union reach more people in the country with library service than Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin law, like those of Minnesota and New York, cannot be considered a satisfactory law, since it does not permit a county tax for library purposes. But the time is not far distant when all three of these states will embody the tax feature in their county library laws and thereby make them much more serviceable.

#### *4. Minnesota, 1905*

Minnesota has eleven counties that receive appropriations from the county commissioners for the support of county library work. A study of the statistics of these libraries shows that few of them receive sufficient funds to do the work of a county library effectively. But the figures indicate that good work is being done, and, when public sentiment is strong enough to secure the passage of a more serviceable county library law, Minnesota will be prepared through what has already been accomplished in the eleven counties for a vigorous county library movement. The statistics of the eleven county libraries will be found in Chapter XXII.

### 5. Missouri, 1909

The secretary of the Missouri Library Commission, under date of May 27, 1913, writes:

The libraries of Carthage, Fulton and Sedalia, being county-seat libraries, consider their resources at the service of the people of the county and have some liberal rules concerning the holding of cards by county borrowers; no fee is charged.—None of our counties have as yet taken advantage of the county library law.

However, Missouri has a library that has been in existence since 1890 which permits books to circulate throughout the county. It is called the Jewett Norris Library and is located in Trenton. The building is valued at \$25,000 and the equipment at \$10,000. The library was founded by Jewett Norris, who likewise endowed it, creating a fund of \$15,000. Aside from the income from this endowment the library receives some aid from the Trenton School District, under whose control it has been operated from the beginning. The librarian states that the library and its equipment really belong to the School District and city of Trenton, although *there is no tax levy of any kind for its support*. The number of volumes in the library is 6,910 and the last annual circulation was 10,000. Although the library is free to all the residents of Grundy County, no work of any sort is done outside of the library itself. Hence, residents of the county who would avail themselves of the privileges of the library must come to the library. The population of Trenton is 7,000 and that of Grundy County 18,000. The county has an area of 433 square miles.

### 6. California, 1909-1911

California has twenty-two county libraries. News Notes of California Libraries \* says that "inquiries have come

\* Vol. 8, No. 3, July, 1913.



in from nearly every county asking that some one be sent to help in county library organization." So it looks as if it would not be long before nearly all the fifty-eight counties of the state would have county libraries. All the twenty-two county libraries thus far established were organized under the law of 1909 (amended in 1911) except the San Francisco City and County Library and the Sacramento County Library. The former as a city library was established in 1878, and since the city and county are coterminous, practically all the library had to do on the passage of the county law by the state legislature was to change its name. The latter was established in 1908, one year before the passage of the county library law, "under an agreement between the Board of Supervisors of Sacramento county and the Board of Trustees of the Sacramento Public Library." The county library law gave this agreement legal sanction.

All but five of the county libraries now in operation are located in town or city library buildings, and the county supervisors have made arrangements with the boards of trustees for the management of the county work. The Kern and San Diego county libraries are located in the court house; the Los Angeles County Library occupies rooms in the Hall of Records; and the Madera and Tulare county libraries have rented quarters. None of the twenty-two county libraries has a building of its own.

The tax levy varies in the different counties, but the amount of money provided in practically all the twenty-two counties is ample for the accomplishment of a wonderful work. Of course too little time has elapsed since the establishment of even the oldest of these libraries to justify a critical analysis of their work. At the end of a few more years it will be possible to draw some further interesting inferences from the county library activities of California.

The reader will note from the figures in Chapter XXII that in only three counties does the circulation exceed the population. Still, in none of the counties is all of the property taxed for library purposes, which limits the library benefits to those residents of the counties living in taxed areas. Then, too, the area of most of the counties is very large, which makes the problem of transportation and distribution difficult. For example, Kern County is about twenty times as large as the average Ohio county and equal to the area of several of the states of the Union. Furthermore, the climate and the large transitory population of California should be taken into consideration in a study of the library work of the state and in comparing it with the library work of the other states of the Union. The statistics of the eighteen \* California libraries will be found in Chapter XXII.

### *7. Maryland, 1910*

Maryland has one county library. This library, the Washington County Free Library, of Hagerstown, was incorporated in 1898, and opened to the public in 1901. In the beginning its chief income was received from an endowment. At the present time it derives an additional income from two other sources, viz., the city of Hagerstown and the county of Washington, having received \$1,000 from the former and \$1,500 from the latter last year. Its total income for 1912 was \$7,500. The valuable building and equipment belong to the trustees and cannot be considered either city or county property. The population of Hagerstown is 20,000 and the population of the county 50,000. The area of the county is 459 square miles. The library contains 25,000 volumes and the last annual circulation was 125,000. The library does an extensive work all over the county, having three branches, seventy stations and

\* Four additional libraries have not yet completed their first year.

one hundred and sixty-two class-room collections. Some of the county work is done by automobile delivery.

The Washington County Free Library is the only county library east of the Allegheny Mountains and it is old enough to determine what effect its work has had on the 50,000 people of the county. A careful study of Washington county with special reference to the work of the library during the past twelve or thirteen years would be a valuable contribution to the library history of the country, and would no doubt aid in establishing the fact that the county library is one of the greatest agencies in the nation today contributing to the welfare of rural life.

A detailed history of the Washington County Free Library should be of especial interest to the New England and Middle States, where rural conditions are very similar, just as the detail history of the Brumback Library of Van Wert County, Ohio, is of especial interest to the Great Mississippi Valley, where rural conditions are very different from those that prevail in the East; and as a detailed history of the California county library, after a lapse of possibly ten years, will be of especial interest to the Great West.\*

#### 8. *Washington, 1910-1913*

There are three counties in the state of Washington that operate county libraries, viz., Pierce County (county-seat Tacoma), King County (county-seat Seattle) and Walla Walla County (county-seat Walla Walla). The library service in these three counties, however, extends only to the schools. But so excellent is the library work done in the schools of this progressive state that when the state

\* On the death of the philanthropic president of the Washington County Library Board, some time ago, it was found he had left the institution a large sum of money to be added to the endowment. Praise-worthy as the work of this library has been during the past decade, its increased income will enable it to do much more for Washington County by way of library service than was ever possible before.

finally secures a satisfactory amendment to its state library laws permitting county libraries to be readily organized for the extension of library privileges to all the people of the counties taking advantage of the laws, it will be able to confer library benefits on its people equal to those conferred by any other state in the Union.

However, if Washington is unable to secure a more liberal county library law, it is quite likely that some of the counties of the state will take advantage of the provisions of the amendment of 1913. From a letter dated October 6, 1913, from the Tacoma librarian, Mr. Franklin F. Hopper, the following is quoted: "We hope that within a year or two this library may make such a contract with the county commissioners of Pierce County that we may be able to extend our services to the citizens of the county."

#### *9. Oregon, 1911*

Oregon has three county libraries, all operating under the county library law of 1911 and doing excellent work. The oldest is the Multnomah County Library, of Portland. This library was established in 1864 by the Library Association of Portland, became free to all the residents of the city in 1902, and under a legislative act of 1903 extended its privileges to all the residents of Multnomah County. The central building is the property of the county, although the branch buildings and the equipment belong to the Association. The number of volumes is 167,222 and the 1912 circulation was 1,036,894. The population of the city is 207,214 and of the county 226,261. The area of the county is 429 square miles. Aside from the work done at the central library, work is done through three branches, eleven sub-stations, twelve deposit stations, three high-school libraries, and class-room libraries in both city and rural schools. Funds are provided for the work by a .40 mill county tax. The most eloquent fact with respect to the

Multnomah County Library is the circulation, which is exceeded by very few public libraries anywhere in the country. Every resident of the county averages during the year, in round numbers, four volumes.

The other two county libraries of Oregon were more recently established. The Hood River County Library, of Hood River, was opened in September, 1912. It has 3,000 volumes, but as yet there is no record of a complete year's circulation. The population of the city is 2,331 and of the county 8,016. The area of the county is 543 square miles. Already seven county stations have been established and three school collections have been placed. The library is supported by a county tax of one-fifth of a mill. This county contains the famous Hood River Orchard Valley, the residents of which represent a very high class of citizenship, and good work is to be expected in Hood River County.

The Wasco County Library, of The Dalles, like the Hood River County Library, was opened in September, 1912. Including the school libraries and their circulation it has 9,039 volumes, with a circulation, for the first year, of 44,942. The population of The Dalles is 6,000 and of Wasco County 16,336. The area of the county is 2,343 square miles.

During the first year four county branches and ten county stations were established. Besides, there is much work being done in the public schools. The library is supported by a city tax of seven-eighths of a mill and by a county tax of one-fifth of a mill. Considering the short time the library has been in operation, a great deal has been accomplished.

#### *10. Nebraska, 1911*

Nebraska has an excellent traveling library system and a number of township libraries have been established, but no county has as yet taken advantage of the recently passed county library law, although there has been a great deal of

activity in one or more counties looking to an election such as the law requires. Nebraska has some very progressive library people and there is no doubt that something will happen one of these days in the way of furthering the county library movement. An effort will be made either to amend the law so as to make it more workable, or libraries will be established under the law of 1911, difficult as it will be to establish them.

### *11. New York, 1911*

For some reason or other no county in the state has taken advantage of the New York county library law, although its provisions are simple and counties would experience no difficulty in putting it into effect. Of course the omission from the law of the tax feature greatly limits its serviceability and possibly accounts for the fact that it has never been used. It is as liberal as the county library laws of the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and yet in these two states much good has come from the county library movement.

### *12. Iowa, 1913*

Iowa enacted the last of the twelve county library laws and it is certainly one of the best. The state has had large success in its township work, and the county library law was passed that rural library extension might be emphasized to a greater degree than was possible under any of the other library laws. Iowa being one of the greatest agricultural states, its population being largely rural and its citizenship being of a high type, there is no other state in the Union wherein greater benefits would follow through the establishment of numerous county libraries.

### *13. Indiana*

Although Indiana has no general county library law, it can nevertheless boast of one county library. Bedford,

under a special law passed in 1901, operates a county library supported by a county tax. It was originally a city library and was established by three persons, Mrs. A. C. Voris, G. R. Voris and R. N. Palmer. It has 10,948 volumes and its last circulation was 50,000, which is a very good showing for a city with a population of 8,716 and a county with a population of 30,625, when one considers the fact that no branches have been established and there are no county stations and no school collections. The area of Bedford County is 456 square miles.

It is a matter of interest that Indiana passed a county library law in the year 1816. Regarding this bit of library history \* Mr. Samuel H. Ranck says:

So far as my knowledge goes the first county libraries established by law in the United States were under the provision of Article 9, Section 5, of the constitution of Indiana, adopted in 1816. This section reads as follows:

"The General Assembly, at the time they lay off a new county, shall cause at least 10% to be reserved out of the proceeds of the sale of town lots in the seat of justice of such county, for the use of a public library for such county, and at the same time they shall incorporate a library company under such rules and regulations as will best secure its permanence and extend its benefits."

At the first session of the General Assembly of Indiana in 1817 provision was made for the establishment, according to the terms of the constitution, of a library for Pike County and three other counties. A number of laws and amendments to laws were passed by Indiana under this constitutional provision, one of them in 1847, permitting county boards to make an annual appropriation for their libraries "in any sum not exceeding twenty-five dollars in any one year."

The Biennial Report of the Public Library Commission of Indiana for 1904-1906, sums up the general results of this first county library law as follows:

"Because of the defects of the system due to lack of transportation and communicating facilities, and to the lack of the

\* See article entitled "Rural Library Extension" in *Michigan Libraries*, for December, 1912.

personal supervision of efficient librarians, this first county law failed of its purpose, though it performed a valuable service to the people of the state."

#### 14. Illinois

Illinois also has a county library, although no general county library law has even been passed by the state. The Warren County Library, of Monmouth, was a gift of W. P. Pressly, who in 1868 erected "the first building given in the state of Illinois for a People's Library." During his life he gave for building, books and endowment about \$25,000. From all other sources has been received to date a like amount. The library from the beginning extended its privileges to all the residents of the county, but this was not done without charge. At the present time all residents of Monmouth and those living less than two miles from the city, must pay three dollars a year to become borrowers of the library; the fee for all other residents of the county is one dollar and fifty cents a year. All expenses in connection with collections of books sent out in the county to clubs or other organizations must be met by the recipients, who have to be paying patrons of the library. The reading-room, however, is free to all. The collection of books numbers 24,424 and the last annual circulation amounted to 60,000, which includes all books taken from shelves and used in the library itself. The circulation is only an estimate, as no accurate record is kept of the books used in the reading-room of the library. The income of the library is derived from the endowment and from the fees paid by borrowers. *No money is received from taxation.* The population of Monmouth is 9,128 and of Warren County 23,313. The area of the county is 540 square miles.

A little extension work is done in the county, but, as has been stated, its cost must be met by those benefited, who each pay either three dollars or half that amount yearly,



according to their location in the county. Of course under such an arrangement a very large class of people is unable to enjoy the privileges of the library; and the very people for whom the library could do the most good do not for pecuniary reasons become its patrons. The Warren County library could do a wonderful work if it received revenue from the county to supplement its income received from the endowment and from fees.

### 15. *Texas*

In Texas a law was passed in 1913 whereby

Provision is made for a farmers' county library at each county-seat. On petition of 100 voters in a county, the proposition for such a library is submitted to the voters at the next regular election. If the vote is affirmative, the commissioners' court of each county shall provide room in the county court house and make an appropriation sufficient to establish and support such a library. They shall have entire control of the library, and employ a librarian to gather information pertaining to agriculture, horticulture and kindred subjects and compile and catalogue the same for ready reference and use under the commissioners' rules.\*

This law is not given under the county library laws of Chapter XVII for the reason that it is a county library law having to do solely with agriculture.

This chapter gives an account of the county library movement in fourteen states. It is not asserted that the fifty-seven libraries here discussed are all the libraries doing rural extension work. For example, there are forty-four libraries in the state of Wisconsin alone that are engaged in rural extension work although none of these are county libraries in the proper sense of the word.† Besides, there

\* See article, "Library Legislation in 1913," by W. R. Eastman, in *Library Journal*, January, 1914.

† A county library might be defined as a library owned and maintained through taxation by a county of a state and having a circulation co-extensive with the county. The more nearly a library fulfills the requirements of this definition the more nearly is it a real county library.

are scores of town and city libraries in many of the states of the Union that extend library privileges without cost to country residents. But it is believed that this is the first attempt yet made on an extensive scale to assemble the scattered data that have to do with the county library movement in the United States, and it is hoped that it may prove a help to future historians of the library movement.

## CHAPTER XX

### THE ADVANTAGES OF THE COUNTY LIBRARY

THE following conclusions are based on the experiences of the Brumback Library of Van Wert County and show the advantages and requirements of the county library.

(1) The most important advantage of the county library is educational and cultural, therefore:

(a) The county library should have collections of books in charge of paid custodians in all the cities, towns and trading-centers of the county, so that even the most remote rural homes of the county may enjoy library privileges. In several states the experiment of reaching the rural homes by means of the book wagon or book automobile has been tried and has proved a success. The present generation has given the farmer the telephone, rural free delivery, parcel post, postal savings banks, electric lights, good roads, township schools, the automobile and innumerable improvements that largely eliminate drudgery both on the farm and in the home. If to these is added access to the best literature of the world, the country home enjoys almost all the advantages of the city with none of the latter's disadvantages. This may in a measure retard the migration from country to city, which will prove a big factor in the reduction of the cost of living.

(b) The county library should have collections of books under the supervision of teachers in all the schools of the county. This is of inestimable benefit to teachers, since it brings them into intimate and constant contact with well-trained librarians. It is equally helpful to pupils because it

adds an element to their school work which makes many of their studies much more interesting. Give the pupil some first-class books that in an attractive manner supplement his work, and these will arouse in him an interest that will make him eager to learn. Then, it has a good effect on the homes of the children in the school because books taken home by the children are frequently read by the parents and older brothers and sisters. Thus, a county library makes better teachers, better pupils and better homes.

(c) The county library should devote a good deal of time to the needs of the ministers of the county. It should supply them with the very best books that appear from year to year on all the subjects that are of most vital interest to them: books on matters pertaining to theology and the church, books on matters pertaining to the problems of the city and the equally important problems of the country, and all sorts of books whose perusal will make them better preachers and better pastors. The preachers need all the help they can get in their work and particularly is this true of country pastors. Life is very different today from what it was a generation ago. Then the church had less difficulty in getting and holding the people because the magnetic power of the world was not so strong. But the interests and activities of the people have become so numerous in these latter days, the attractions and fascinations of a complex life have become so irresistible, and the earth has grown so much smaller because of the greater facilities of communication and travel, that the church finds it increasingly more difficult to compete with the world and retain its ideals. So anything that can be done to enable the church to keep fully abreast of the times, without sacrificing any of its spirituality, supplies an additional element of strength to our nation.

(d) The county library should aid all praiseworthy organizations both of the county and of a local character.

Through book lists, exhibits and addresses, it should help farmers' institutes and seek to foster an interest in them among all the farmers. In various ways it should cooperate with county fair boards and do what it can to make the County Fair the one big event of the year in county activities. It should work with township Sunday school conventions, that the most important department in the church in the matter of spiritual instruction of the youth of the county may flourish. It should encourage essay and oratorical contests and debates through its work in the schools; it should stimulate crop-growing movements, poultry shows and the like; it should seek to arouse an interest in music festivals in order that the people may become interested in the best music and in dramatic performances that a healthy love of only the best in dramatic art may be developed; it should encourage all kinds of civic and county activities that make for the welfare of the county physically, mentally and morally; it should aim to keep all the people in intimate touch with local, state and national activities through references to articles and books and through exhibits of all kinds. Through printed book lists designed for all the county and through published lists of books and helpful library items in many of the papers of the county, the library should keep its resources constantly before its entire constituency.

(2) Another advantage of the county library is its emphasis of the idea of unity in the county, its constant encouragement of cooperation in all county activities and its development of county patriotism. The library's work among the homes of the county, among the teachers and pupils of all the schools of the county, among the pastors of the county and among the great number of county clubs, associations and organizations has the effect of bringing all the people of the county close together. By taking advantage of the opportunities offered it in its work among all

the people, the county library is able to develop to a wonderful degree the spirit of cooperation. And from its extensive work among the people and its fostering of the spirit of cooperation, it prepares the way for a high type of patriotism.

Unity, cooperation and patriotism, this trinity is the salvation of the county. Furthermore, all this gives the county a good name, it keeps it on the highway of progress, and it makes it a good place in which to establish a home, to earn a living and to rear a family.

(3) The county library develops the philanthropic spirit, since it is maintained by a county tax either on all or on a large part of the property of the county, and many of those who contribute the most toward the library's maintenance apparently receive the least benefit. The poorest resident of the county and his entire family have just as much right to its services as the largest tax-payer. And yet the largest tax-payer gets value received for his contribution to the support of the library, however much it may be.

A few figures will verify the statement that all tax-payers get value received. If a county with a tax duplicate of fifty million dollars allows its county library ten thousand dollars a year for maintenance (and this amount will successfully run a county library in a county of from thirty to fifty thousand people having from fifteen to twenty branches and collections in a hundred or more country schools), each person on one thousand dollars' worth of property would contribute only twenty cents a year to the support of the library. Very few farmers in any county pay taxes on more than ten thousand dollars' worth of property, and even such well-to-do farmers would contribute only two dollars a year toward the maintenance of the library for the threefold advantages enjoyed by themselves and their families. He would be unwise who should enter the slightest objection to paying so little for the privilege of getting so

much. Inquiry of county auditors will show that the number of people in any county who pay on less than ten thousand dollars' worth of property is many times the number who pay on property in excess of this amount; so that the great mass of the people would enjoy privileges for which they would pay nominal amounts into the county treasury.

It is the railroads, the traction and street car lines, the banks, the factories, the merchants and the few persons having large investments or large interests in the county that make the large payments toward the support of the county library. Do they enter any objection? Not at all, and for the reason that progressive people make use of the railroads and the traction and street car lines, acquire and deposit money in the banks, buy goods made by the factories, patronize the merchants and keep up the value of the property of the large property owners of the county.

(4) Another advantage of the county library is that its funds are ample to employ a well-educated and experienced librarian and an intelligent force of assistants, which would be impossible on an income ranging from one thousand to twenty-five hundred dollars annually, and yet the incomes of a majority of the libraries of the country will not exceed the latter figure. It is difficult to employ a trained librarian for fifty dollars a month, and on such an income more cannot be paid. And if the librarian receives only fifty dollars a month, of course assistants are paid less. A library should be an institution presided over by a trained librarian. Such a person commands the respect of the library trustees, assistants and patrons, is able to select suitable books and periodicals from the thousands offered, knows how to direct students and others in all kinds of reference work, succeeds by degrees in elevating the literary tastes of readers, and develops into a great force in the county in all matters that pertain to education and culture. Likewise the assistants of a library should be sufficiently well paid to enable the

trustees to secure the highest type of young women for such positions.

(5) Another advantage of a county library is that its funds are ample to provide a first-class library equipment including a well-selected number of the best periodicals specializing in the different fields of human endeavor, the best and latest reference works (some of which are very high-priced and can be bought only by libraries enjoying good incomes) and the choice books of every class as soon as they are published. How many of the libraries of the country can be live-wire repositories of the best products of the human brain on the income they receive?

A library should be much more than a place where librarians do the routine work of looking after books and periodicals and where books are indiscriminately borrowed and periodicals read; and yet many of the libraries of the country are little more than just such places, and will continue to be as long as funds for library maintenance are insufficient.

Arguments (4) and (5) suggest a word on township libraries. Making the township the unit in the extension of library benefits enables many people to enjoy library privileges that had hitherto been denied such service. Arguments can be found for and against both the township and the county plan. It is even probable that the township plan would be better in some instances than the county plan. But, **generally speaking**, there is one objection to the township plan that cannot be urged against the county plan, and that is, it leaves some territory in the county without library privileges.

(a) It is not likely that every township in any county would establish a township library: some townships could and would, some townships would and could not, and some townships could and would not. Even though several townships might combine, as is the case in several states, there would still remain districts without library service.



(b) The progressive townships would establish township libraries, which would lead to greater educational progress in them than in the backward townships.

(c) The very townships in a county which would have greatest need of library service would be the last to secure township libraries.

(d) The township library would work against rather than contribute to county unity, cooperation and patriotism.

In place of making several efforts in a county to secure a number of township libraries, why not as a result of one campaign provide for a county library that would be adequate to the needs of the whole county?

The question reduces itself to this: Which plan is more likely in the end to secure library service for all the people? If the township plan, let that be emphasized. If the county plan, let that be emphasized.

(6) A final advantage of the county library is that it makes a good government and state depository and is the logical place for the collection and preservation of all data that have to do with the history of the county. In past years schools emphasized general history to the neglect of local history. But that time is past. Now the curricula of the schools are giving local history its true place, and pupils are coming to have a better knowledge of, and more love for, the home county. Why should not every child know all the important dates and incidents in the history of his home county and be informed on its agricultural, manufacturing, social, religious and educational activities? The history of every county (and especially is this true of the older counties of the country) is full of incidents that are worthy of preservation. Furthermore, relics and exhibits that have a bearing on the life of the county should be preserved for the future.

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When one thinks of the almost countless ways that the people living in the cities have benefited by the philanthropies

of generous men and women, one wonders that so few benefactors have remembered the people living in the rural districts of the United States. They enjoy many advantages now that they did not have years ago, although they pay for practically all of them. Of course, if they have library privileges through a county library they pay for these also, but they are willing to pay for them because they know that they are getting large returns for a small outlay.

More should be done for the farmer, since the future of the country depends upon the progress he makes. It is his sons and daughters that recruit the ranks of the cities. If these reinforcements come from homes of education, culture and spirituality, city standards are raised and there is a better municipal and national citizenship.

For a decade and a half the farmer has grown rich, but not so much from his farming operations as from an increase in the value of his land. From the time of the Civil War to the year 1896, money was scarce and the things for which money was exchanged were cheap. But since 1896 money has grown year by year more plentiful and the result is that things for which money is exchanged have become dear. And among these things is land. Land, worth very little per acre in the early nineties, has in many cases doubled and trebled in value and it may also be said of farm tools, implements, live stock and farm products that they too have greatly increased in value. This advantage to the farmer, however, is partially offset by the fact that all the things that he buys are much higher and, besides, he has to pay much more for farm labor. Nevertheless, the farmer has grown rich as a result of the fact that his land and products have increased in value during the past fifteen or twenty years, and his possession of those things that have greatly depreciated in value, viz., money, stock, bonds and other intangible personal property, has been limited.

But this increase in value of the property of the farmer

cannot go on forever. Even now it looks as though a halt had come in the upward trend of prices. And when land ceases to go higher and the products of the farm discontinue to enhance in value, or fall off in price, then the farmer will be almost solely dependent on what he can get out of his land. The business of farming under stable prices is very safe, but it is not very conducive to affluence. Furthermore, if the nation-wide campaign to reduce the high cost of living is successful, the man who will be affected most will be the farmer. Since, therefore, the likelihood is that one great element of the past that contributed to the large profits of the farmer, viz., the gradual increase in value of his land as well as his stock in trade, is to disappear coincidentally with a national and international effort to force down the prices on all the things that the farmer sells, the farmer of tomorrow must make some gains to compensate him for the loss of those things enjoyed by the farmer of yesterday, or rural life will decline. One of the compensating features may be that of library service, which would mean a mental and spiritual gain to offset a material loss.

Nor need there be any material loss if the attention of the whole people is directed to the elevation of educational standards among the forty-five to fifty millions of the rural population. The main cause of the unsatisfactory condition of agriculture in the nation is its failure to keep pace in its attractiveness and advantages with the other callings of the people. Let agriculture take its true place in the nation's activities through a more attractive home and social life, through better schools and churches, through a greater conservation of effort and through a higher type of farming, and many of the problems of rural life will disappear. Supplying the farmer with the world's knowledge by library service is one of the means that will enable agriculture to take its true place in the nation's activities.

## CHAPTER XXI

### A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

**F**INALLY, the question arises, What of the future of the county library movement? Will it be, like many other movements, short-lived? Or will it gather strength with each year and eventually come to be one of the great factors in our national progress, a movement so wide-spread and far-reaching that in the end few people of the whole country will be denied the best of library service? The future may be regarded with optimism since a study of the movement establishes three encouraging facts: (1) some of the states that have county library laws are seeking to make them better adapted to conditions; (2) all of the twelve states are showing an abundance of enthusiasm in their county library activities; and (3) other states are making efforts to secure the passage of county library laws.

One purpose of this book is to give the county library movement an impetus. Hitherto county library activities have been somewhat isolated and sporadic, records of them have been partly lost in the tremendous mass of literature that concerns itself with the library progress of the nation, and busy men and women have found it almost impossible, in the midst of the many demands on their time, to devote enough attention to this phase of library work to enable them to get a clear conception of its place in library development. A perusal of this book will enable those interested in library progress to get an understanding of the status and significance of the county library movement.

The future of the movement is assured because it is in

harmony with the national spirit of the times, yea, the world *Zeitgeist*. The student of contemporary history is impressed with the fact that the whole nation is taking a great interest in social service. The past decade has witnessed a phenomenal growth in the missionary activities of the nation with the result that every field of missionary endeavor has been enlarged and supplied with more workers. More and more attention is being devoted to a solution of the many vexing problems of industrial life, leading to the passage of progressive laws both by Congress and by the several state legislatures.

The public school system and the churches are receiving the best thought and commanding a large portion of the time of men and women from every walk of life, and the former is to a greater extent becoming responsive to the needs of the present while the latter are strengthening their hold on the people. The evils that threaten the national life—the liquor traffic, the use of drugs, the business of white slavery, impurity, etc., etc.—are weighing so heavily on the consciences of the good people of the country that herculean efforts are being made by consecrated thousands to preserve the health of the nation through their elimination. The work among the boys and girls of the country has increased amazingly in recent years. It is realized that if they be surrounded with elevating and stimulating influences during the formative periods of their lives they will develop into a citizenship in whose hands the nation will be safe and able to continue in its great progress. The thousands of foreigners who seek “The Promised Land” every year with the view of making it their permanent home are finding the American people a people interested in humanity, and desirous that the citizenship which emerges from the great Melting Pot shall be a citizenship freed from the dross of evil habits and customs and fitted for a great destiny in the nation of their adoption.

This magnificent work of a virile people will not stop short of fruition.

The most important thing in every man's life is his life purpose. The purpose of a man's life determines the value of the man to society. If the purpose be selfish the life is useless. If the purpose be unselfish the life is valuable in proportion to the activity of the man in the field of unselfish endeavor. Real happiness never came and never can come to the man with a selfish life purpose. True happiness comes only to him who contributes something to the world that is of benefit to humanity.

Dedicating a part of one's time to the cause of the county library movement is a worthy purpose. But any one doing this meets with many obstacles. Yet who ever entered the field of philanthropy that did not encounter opposition? Some one has said, "Righteousness is potential energy won by fighting evil; the moment fighting stops, growth stops and righteousness languishes." There is no such thing as latent or dormant righteousness. It may likewise be said of all other virtues that they are potential energy and that the moment cultivation stops in the case of any of them development ceases. The one big obstacle in the way of the more rapid growth of the county library idea is selfishness, selfishness which takes the form of a refusal to be taxed for the benefit of all the people. Many object to being taxed for county libraries who would willingly advocate taxation for such purpose if they were shown the great benefit to be derived therefrom. In the case of such men all that is necessary is that they be enlightened to make them "boosters" instead of "knockers." But there is another class of men who are so narrow in their ideas that they resist taxation on general principles. And in those communities where the majority of the people are influenced by such persons, little progress is made.

Every state in the Union should have people who resolve

that they will not rest until their legislature passes a county library law, if such a law has not already been passed. And after a law has been enacted they should bend their energies to urging upon counties the desirability of establishing county libraries under the law. This would give the movement a tremendous impetus. The beginning has been made and it is a good beginning. If, therefore, willing workers in every state become interested in the county library propaganda, the movement will gradually gather momentum.

If librarians would realize their ambition along this line, they must get a vision. Is it not true that the only people in this world who ever accomplish anything worth while are the people who have a vision? Life is full of so very much that retards and hinders and discourages in one's ambitions, but if a person has caught the vision the many obstacles that impede his progress will never stop him because of the lofty purpose that dominates his life.

But after one has the vision the next important thing is that he properly interpret it. Some get the vision and fancy they are inspired to ascend the heights and work with the leaders of the forces of Progress. How many such are like the hero in Hawthorne's beautiful story of "The Threefold Destiny," who imagined the world had great things for him to do, but whose work lay right at his own door-step. The librarians of the smallest libraries in the land have a great work right at home. And if they do their work well at home the world will be compelled to take notice and they may be called higher, with the result that their final activities might be among the leaders of men.

Some months ago, Chavez, the French aviator, had aspirations to fly across the Alps into Italy. Finally, he started on the perilous trip, but "on reaching his destination his machine suddenly collapsed and fell to the ground and he was crushed. During his wonderful flight in the blinding whirlwinds of snow, crossing peak after peak, and in the

delirium of his death, he cried again and again: 'One more peak, O God, one more peak.' "

To the heights of an unknown sky, alone,  
On the wings of man, to the face of God,  
An evangel of onward, straight has flown,  
Where demon or seraph had never trod;  
And the thought of his heart, which we all must speak,  
Was: Bear me, O God, o'er another peak.

And on and on to Italian skies,  
By glaciated Alpine gulfs and snows,  
On impetuous wings the birdman flies,  
While the wheels whirl fast, but, as he goes  
Like a sunlit meteor's passing streak,  
The cry of his heart is—one more peak.

O val'rous heart! The steepest, last,  
Of the menacing mountain chain,  
The uppermost pinnacle's pride is passed;  
But it smiles in a strange disdain—  
For the vulture gloats o'er the paling cheek  
Of him who mastered that one last peak.

See him stretched on the plain, the dying bird,  
The conqueror crushed by his car!  
Yet sublimer strain was never heard  
Than he voiced to the earth, and air—  
That eternal prayer man must ever speak,  
To Him who is Lord of the plain and peak.

Full often around the world has rung  
An immortal, fateful phrase,  
But no victor or martyr has ever sung  
A nobler psalm than thine, Chavez!  
That the soul is dead that will not seek,  
Whate'er its triumphs—another peak.\*

The world is what it is today because of the men and women whose prayer has ever been—"One more peak, O God, one more peak." Some have failed to scale every peak and to reach Italy; some, like Chavez, have met death at the goal; some have lived to enjoy the fruits of the journey. But all have rendered a service to mankind.

\* M. F. Tighe.



## CHAPTER XXII

### THE COUNTY LIBRARIES OF THE UNITED STATES CLASSIFIED

THE fifty-three \* county libraries of the United States may be divided into three classes:

- (1) those organized under general laws;
- (2) those organized under special laws;
- (3) and those organized under no laws.

Under the first class are five groups:

(a) The first group consists of county libraries in their *own buildings* and maintained by a *tax on all* the taxable property of the county;

(b) The second group consists of county libraries operated through *town or city libraries* and maintained by a *tax on all* the taxable property of the county;

(c) The third group consists of county libraries in their *own or rented quarters* and maintained by a *tax on only part* of the taxable property of the county;

(d) The fourth group consists of county libraries operated through *town or city libraries* and maintained by a *tax on only part* of the taxable property of the county;

(e) The fifth group consists of county libraries operated through *town or city libraries* and maintained by a *county appropriation*.

\* Four other county libraries authorized but not yet in operation (July, 1913), viz., Del Norte, Monterey, San Mateo and Santa Clara County libraries, all of California. Besides, there are three county-seat libraries in Missouri (see page 263) that serve the book needs of their respective counties. These are the Carthage, Fulton and Sedalia libraries. Then, Wisconsin has forty-four libraries (see page 262) that "grant free privileges to country people." Furthermore, in almost all parts of the country will be found libraries that have become liberal enough to supply country people with library service. The trend seems to be in the direction of granting library privileges to the people in the small villages and on the farms, and town and city libraries are responding to the challenge of the millions who represent Rural America and township and county libraries are rapidly increasing in number.

Group (a) under Class I has only two libraries, viz., The Brumback Library of Van Wert County, Ohio, and The Paulding County Library, Paulding, Ohio. Both of these libraries, which belong to neighboring counties in northwestern Ohio, are as much county institutions as the courthouse of a county is a county institution, each having a *county building* and being supported by a *tax on all the taxable property of the county*. These are the only county libraries of the whole country of which this may be said.

	City Library Established	County Library Established	Income	Population City	Population County	Area County Square Miles	Volumes	Circulation	Branches, Etc.
Ohio									
Van Wert County Library.....	1891	1898	8,500	Van Wert 7,157 Paulding 2,081	29,119	405	23,319	90,853	Many
Paulding County Library.....	1913	1913	4,000		22,730	413	*	*	*

\*Not yet started on its first year.

Group (b) under Class I has sixteen libraries. These sixteen libraries are all supported by a *tax on all the taxable property of the county*, but each operates through a *town or city library* under an arrangement made by county commissioners with town or city library trustees.

	City Library Established	County Library Established	Income	Population City	Population County	Area County Square Miles	Volumes	Circulation	Branches, etc.
Oregon Multnomah County Library	1864	1903	2/5M	Portland 207,214	226,261	429	167,222	1,036,894	3 branches 11 sub branches 12 dep. sta. 3 H. S., etc. 7 branches
Oregon Hood River County Library	1912	1912	1/5M City 7/8M County 1/5M	Hood River 2,331 Dallas 6,000	8,016	543	3,000	*	3 schools 4 branches
Oregon Wasco County Library.....	1910	1912	City 3,700 County 1/10M	Mansfield 20,768	16,336	2,343	9,039	44,942	10 Co. Sta., etc.
Ohio Richland County Library...	1880	1913		Sandusky 19,989	47,667	503	17,300	74,000	4
Ohio Erie County Library.....	†	1913	6,000	Chillicothe 14,508	38,327	256	†	57,052	10
Ohio Ross County Library.....	1854	1913	3,985	Xenia 8,706	40,690	668	28,968	50,860	None School Collections
Ohio Green County Library.....	1878	1913	1/2M	Green River 1,500	29,733	433	14,535	23,373	
Wyoming Sweetwater County Library	1906	1906	2,500		11,575	10,500	2,500	†	None

\*Not yet ready (October, 1913). †Not reported.

	City Library Established	County Library Established	Income	Population City	Population County	Area County Square Miles	Volumes	Circulation	Branches, etc.
Wyoming Sheridan County Library...	1905	1905	1/6M	Sheridan 8,408	16,324	4,575	5,125	23,614	Little county wk.
Wyoming Johnson County Library....	1910	1910	1/8M	Buffalo 1,500	4,000	4,175	1,842	7,690	None
Wyoming Fremont County Library...	1909	1909	1/5M	Lander 1,812	11,822	12,659	1,750	5,000	None
Wyoming Natrona County Library....	1910	1910	1/4M	Casper 3,500	6,000	5,353	2,500	11,000	None
Wyoming Big Horn County Library...	1910	1910	1/8M	Basin 2,000	8,886	6,768	2,476	3,000	Traveling libraries
Wyoming Uinta County Library.....	1906	1906	1/4M	Evanston 3,000	16,982	11,044	5,440	15,000	Traveling libraries
Wyoming Albany County Library.....	1905	1905	1/5M	Laramie 8,237	11,574	4,401	11,000	33,110	Traveling libraries
Wyoming Laramie County Library....	1900	1900	1/8M	Cheyenne 11,320	26,127	6,992	15,000	14,160	Traveling libraries

Group (c) under Class I has five libraries. These five libraries are all supported by a tax on part of the property of the county, but each operates in a county building or quarters rented by the county.

	City Library Established	County Library Established	Income	Population City	Population County	Area County Square Miles	Volumes	Circulation	Branches, etc.
California Kern County Library.....	1900	1910	19,000	Bakersfield 12,727 San Diego	37,715	8,154	16,468	18,812	16
California San Diego County Library..	1882	1912	5,284.54	39,578 Los Angeles	61,665	4,207	1,945*	1,773*	10
California Los Angeles County Library	1872	1912	40,873	319,198 Madera	504,131	4,000	4,232†	987†	18
California Madera County Library....	1901	1910	5,473	2,404 Visalia	8,368	2,140	4,720†	7,191†	19
California Tulare County Library.....	1904	1911	12,000	4,550	35,440	4,863	8,661	17,873	33

\* San Diego not included. † Los Angeles not included. ‡ Madera not included.

Group (d) under Class I has thirteen libraries. These libraries are all supported by a tax on part of the taxable property of the county and each operates through a town or city library.

	City Library Estab- lished	County Library Estab- lished	Income	Population City	Popula- tion County	Area County Square Miles	Volumes	Circula- tion	Branches, etc.
California				Oakland	246,121	840	77,185	71,724	33
Alameda County Library...	1863	1910	100,900	150,174					
California				Woodland	13,926	1,017	17,207	15,116*	36
Yolo County Library.....	1874	1910	7,289	3,187					
California				Fresno	75,657	6,035	20,818	41,215	31
Fresno County Library.....	1891	1910	23,033.53	24,892					
California				El Centro	13,591	4,316	5,502	13,385	19
Imperial County Library...	1907	1912	7,500	1,610					
California				Hartford	16,230	1,375	5,981	8,921	12
Kings County Library.....	1890	1912	7,692.13	4,829					
California				Merced	15,148	1,750	11,849	19,277	15
Merced County Library.....	1905	1910	15,000	3,102					
California				Sacramento	67,807	988	71,728	29,776	127
Sacramento County Library.	1857	1908	24,242.38	44,696					
California				Hollister	8,041	1,467	1,955†	†	93 in school
San Benito County Library.	1884	1912	1,480	2,308					†
California					416,912	42	130,381	219,828	19
San Francisco County Lib...	1878	1878	76,000	Stockton					
California				23,253	50,731	1,370	62,721	39,755	24
San Joaquin County Library	1880	1910	18,752.94	Santa Barbara					
California				11,659	27,738	2,450	27,082	32,712	23
Santa Barbara County Lib...	1882	1910	14,176.66	Modesto					
California				4,034	22,522	1,486	7,101	26,277	14
Sanlehigh County Library...	1905	1911	12,166.75						

\* Woodland not included. † All belong to Hollister. ‡ Not reported.

Group (e) under Class 1 has eleven libraries. These libraries are supported by a *county appropriation* and each operates through a *town or city library*.

	City Library Estab- lished	County Library Estab- lished	Income	Population City	Popula- tion County	Area County Square Miles	Volumes	Circula- tion	Branches, etc.
Minnesota Washington County Library	1869	1904	5,264.47	Stillwater 10,198	26,013	397	12,823	27,654	14
Minnesota Itasca County Library.....	1898	1908	1,201.73	Grand Rapids 2,800	17,208	2,730	2,273	11,245	None
Minnesota Meeker County Library.....	1904	1905	1,268.17	Litchfield 2,500	17,022	621	3,600	11,167	None
Minnesota Olmstead County Library...	1865	1911	3,587.48	Rochester 8,000	22,497	666	15,000	35,530	12
Minnesota Hennepin County Library...	1904	1911	996.60	Wayzata 1,000	333,480	565	2,056	5,020	None
Minnesota Becker County Library.....	1908	1912	373.56	Detroit 3,000	16,234	1,349	1,938	8,016	None
Minnesota Anoka County Library.....	1894	1904	1,250.00	Anoka 4,000	12,493	459	5,500	16,863	None
Minnesota Lake County Library.....	1896	1911	2,987.22	Two Harbors 4,996	8,011	2,099	5,300	17,629	31
Minnesota Steel County Library.....	1901	1902	4,126.47	Owatonna 6,000	18,000	431	15,310	41,434	12
Minnesota Ramsey County Library.....	1889	1912	980.87	White Bear 2,000	223,675	161	3,000	4,898	16
Minnesota Stevens County Library.....	1903	1910	2,337.32	Morris 1,685	8,293	564	5,276	16,874	15

Class 2 contains three libraries, each of which is organized under a special law.

	City Library Estab- lished	County Library Estab- lished	Income	Population City	Popula- tion County	Area County Square Miles	Volumes	Circula- tion	Branches, etc.
Ohio									
Hamilton County Library...	1855	1898	.273M	Cincinnati 364,463	460,732	407	443,126	1,534,883	Many
Indiana									
Bedford County Library....	1897	1901	*	Bedford 8,716	30,625	456	10,984	50,000	None
Maryland									
Washington County Library	1898	1901	7,500	Hagerstown 20,000	50,000	459	25,000	125,000	3 branches 70 stations 162 class rooms

\* Not reported.



## THE COUNTY LIBRARY

Class 3 contains three libraries, not organized under a state law and not supported by a county tax.

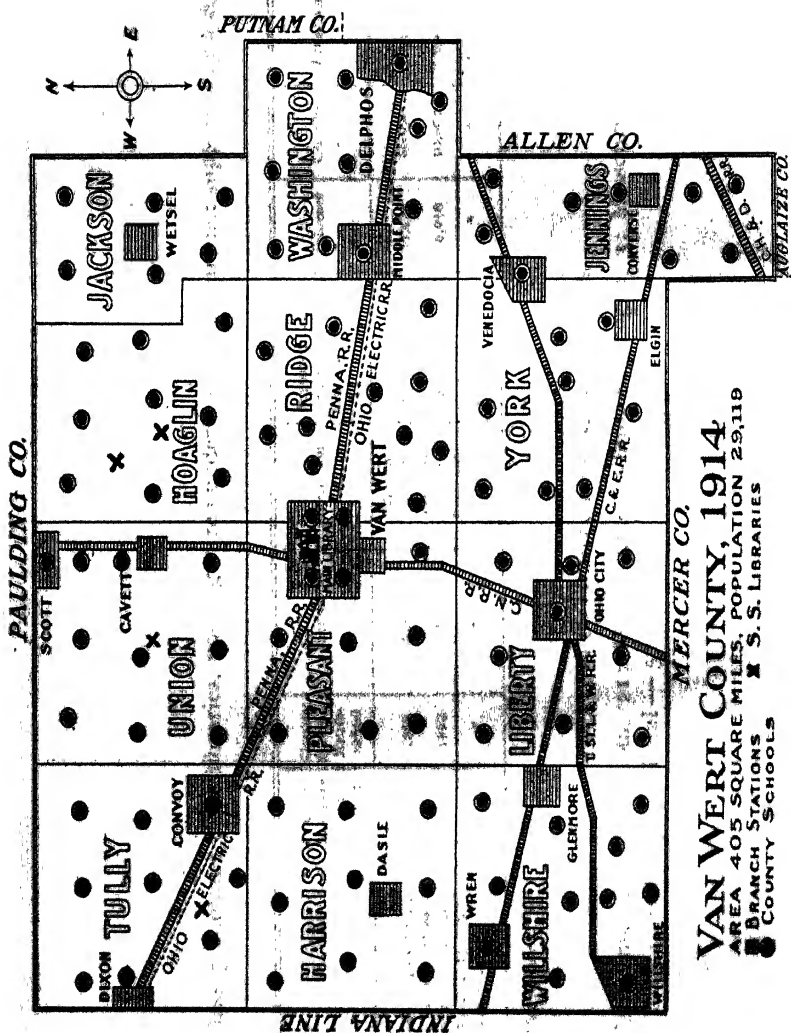
	City Library Estab- lished	County Library Estab- lished	Income	Population City	Popula- tion County	Area County Square Miles	Volumes	Circula- tion	Branches, etc.
Illinois									
Warren County Library.....	1868	1868	3,000	Warren 9,128	23,313	540	24,424	60,000	None
Grundy County, Missouri,				Trenton					
Jewett Norris Library.....	1890	1890	*	7,000	18,000	433	6,910	10,000	None
Sandusky County, Ohio,				Fremont					
Birchard Library.....	*	*	*	9,939	35,171	413	*	*	*

\* Not reported.

## LOCATION OF COUNTY LIBRARIES BY STATES

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